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Egypt

AL-AHRAM Urges U.S. To 'Close the Hostage File'

NC3004050490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2158 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has called on the United States and the Western countries to close the hostage file and open a new page in their relations with Iran, Libya, and Syria, which have, according to the U.S. Administration, played a constructive role in bringing about the release of several Western hostages in Lebanon.

In Monday's editorial, the paper says that closing the hostage file and opening a new era in the West's relations with the three states will lead to the removal of one of the major hotbeds of tension, the ending of the harsh Western propaganda, and the building of relations characterized by trust and a degree of cooperation. All this is consistent with the spirit of the age which is emerging in a world characterized by freedom, democracy, and interdependence.

AL-AHRAM adds that the hostage issue has been one of the most burning issues in the West's relations with Libya, Syria, and Iran. This issue has been exploited so that the charge of terrorism can be leveled against these countries.

The paper says that with the release of U.S. hostage Polhill and the three European hostages before him, serious steps have been taken to close the hostage file. The door is now wide open for settling some of the outstanding problems between the three states and the U.S. Administration and all Western countries.

U.S. House Resolution 'Against U.S. Interests'

JN2904203090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Apr 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Where Is U.S. Credibility?"]

[Text] World public opinion suffered a real shock when the U.S. House of Representatives issued a resolution considering Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Peace-loving people had hoped that the House of Representatives would not repeat the Senate's mistake, especially after Senator Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the Senate, tried to explain to the senators that they had made a mistake and frankly urged the representatives and senators to approve draft resolutions only after thorough study.

The badly-timed new resolution, as well as its negative implications, go against U.S. interests and are also a serious blow to U.S. credibility. In addition, the resolution very much embarrassed the Bush administration, which has not recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital because it believes that such recognition would certainly undermine peace efforts in the Middle East, would indicate a complete bias toward Israel, and would constitute indifference to the historical fact that Jerusalem is Arab land occupied in 1967. World public opinion and the international community have urged Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and allow citizens to express their right to self-determination.

Therefore, we were not surprised when the House vote was accompanied by the Jewish extremists' regrettable aggression in East Jerusalem and their illegal attempt to settle in properties owned by a church. As the Arabs are duty-bound not to surrender to this pressure and to give the House and Senate an opportunity to understand the real situation, the Bush administration should intensify its pressure on Israel's rulers to begin peace negotiations. It should tell them that the games and procrastination in which they are engaging will not achieve their goal but could lead to an explosion the power of which no one can predict.

Mubarak To Visit Syria, Meet Al-Asad 2 May

NC3004101690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak will visit Syria the day after tomorrow, Wednesday, for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that President Mubarak's visit to Syria is in response to an invitation that President al-Asad extended to him during their recent meeting in Tubruq.

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo on 'Few-Day Visit'

NC3004045390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2252 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Cairo after midnight tonight on a few-day visit to Egypt. He was welcomed at the airport by Ambassador Sami Thabit, the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo.

Meets With Mubarak 30 Apr

NC3004103290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1016 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—At noon today, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace. Mubarak held a round of talks with 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo last night.

Soviet Ambassador Meets 'Abd-al-Majid, Comments

NC2904143190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak is to pay an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union next month. Announcing this, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo said this visit assumes special significance as it will be the first visit to the Soviet Union by an Egyptian president in 18 years. He added that President Mubarak will hold talks with the Soviet leader as well as with senior officials on international and regional issues, the Middle East

situation, and prospects for a peaceful settlement. Also, he went on, they will discuss bilateral relations and promotion of cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

He noted that President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union will have an effect not only on bilateral ties but also on international issues. He said that during Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union, a long-term agreement to boost Egyptian-Soviet cooperation in various fields is expected to be signed.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with the Soviet ambassador today. Afterwards, the ambassador stated that the meeting was part of the preparations for President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union. He said the Soviet leadership had asked him to explain the Soviet Union's stand on the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives resolution regarding East Jerusalem, which the Soviet Union views as illegal.

He also informed 'Abd-al-Majid of the Soviet Union's condemnation of Israel's measures against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories on 26 April, which are viewed as an impediment to the peace efforts in the region.

'Deep Concern' Over W. Bank, Gaza Incidents

NC2704151790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Egypt has expressed its deep concern over the deplorable events which took place in the occupied West Bank and Gaza yesterday on the first day of 'Id al-Fitr.

A responsible source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has reiterated Egypt's stand, which it has made clear on several occasions, saying that the settlement of the Middle East problem requires dialogue, negotiations, and goodwill. The source said that peace based on justice is the best safeguard for a future of security and stability for all nations in the region. Such a peace will allow these nations to live in freedom and dignity and in circumstances favorable to development and progress.

The source said that Egypt received with alarm the news of the regrettable events which took place on the first day of 'Id al-Fitr in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, during which many Palestinian citizens were killed or injured by the Israeli occupation forces.

The source added that Egypt believes that the recent statement by the UN secretary general in which he clearly expressed his alarm at the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories is "a pertinent expression of the deep concern among world public opinion over this development."

Mauritania

Communique Detailing 28 Apr Cabinet Reshuffle

AB2804154690 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Communique issued by the chairmanship of the Military Committee for National Salvation in Nouakchott on 28 April]

[Text] Communique from the chairmanship of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN]:

By a decree signed today, 28 April, the following cabinet appointments have been made:

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Hasni Ould Didi
Minister of Justice	Sow Adama Samba Bohoum
Minister of Interior, Posts, and Telecommunications	Major Cheickh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba
Minister of Mines and Industry	Boullah Ould Mogueya
Minister of National Education	Mocktar Ould Haye
Minister of Health and Social Welfare	Mohamed Abderrahmane Ould Moine
Minister of Culture and Islamic Orientation	Didi Ould Bou N'ama

Furthermore, here is another communique from the CMSN chairmanship:

By an order dated today, 28 April, Mohamed Salem Ould Addoud has been appointed adviser at the office of the CMSN chairman and head of state.

AFP Analysis of Reshuffle

AB2804214790 Paris AFP in French 1731 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 28 Apr (AFP)—A cabinet reshuffle, marked by the appointment of a civilian, Hasni Ould Didi, as foreign minister, and by four departures, has been carried out in Mauritania, under a decree from the office of the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN-ruling body), published this afternoon in Nouakchott.

This is the first time that the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, has appinted a civilian as foreign minister since he came to power following a military coup in December 1984, observers have noted in Nouakchott.

Before his appointment to the post of foreign minister, Hasni Ould Didi held the national education portfolio, in which he was replaced by Mocktar Ould Haye (formerly ambassador to Baghdad), who enters the cabinet.

The former foreign minister, Major Cheickh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, a close aide of the Mauritanian head of state, becomes minister of interior, replacing Lieutenant Colonel

Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya, who leaves the government only two months after he replaced the former second-in-command of the regime, Colonel Djibril Ould Abdallahi, who was dismissed last February.

The other three officials who are leaving the cabinet following this afternoon's reshuffle are Cheikh Mohamed Salem Ould Mohamed Lemine (mines and industry), Hamdi Samba Diop (justice), and Mohamed Salem Ould Adoud (culture-Islamic orientation), who have been replaced in these posts by Boullah Ould Mogueya, (formerly minister of health), and Didi Ould Bou N'ama (formerly attorney general).

Under the decree from the CMSN chairman's office, Mohamed Abderrahmane Ould Moine has been appointed minister of health, replacing Boullah Ould Mogueya.

Also, under an order from the CMSN chairman's office published this afternoon in Nouakchott, the former minister for culture and Islamic orientation, Mohamed Salem Ould Addoud, has been appointed adviser at the CMSN chairman's office.

Taya Urges Citizens To Be 'Extremely Vigilant'

AB2704114690 Paris AFP in French 0044 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 26 Apr (AFP)—The Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, yesterday evening called on his fellow citizens to be "extremely vigilant" in the face of "the sordid plot hatched against the existence, independence, and sovereignty" of Mauritania, in an address to mark the end of Ramadan. The 'Id al-Fitr celebration marking the end of the Ramadan fasting will be observed today in Mauritania.

Col. Ould Taya said that "Mauritania's enemies are persistently pursuing their plot, and it is up to the Mauritanian people to take up the challenge to meet their historical responsibilities." The Mauritanian head of state, who, according to observers, was referring to the conflict between his country and Senegal that has lasted over one year, did not give any detail on the development of this issue and did not further explain this "plot" which, according to him, threatens Mauritania.

In another address to mark the beginning of the Ramadan a month ago, the head of state referred at length to the "sufferings" of the Mauritanian people during last year's Ramadan, when the conflict broke out between the two countries which are separated by the Senegal River.

Sudan

AFP Cites Report That '6 More Officers' Executed

NC2804175090 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, April 28 (AFP)—Six more officers have been executed in the past few days in Sudan, bringing the firing squad's toll to 34 since a failed coup in Khartoum on Sunday, the Arabic-language AL-HAYAH daily said Saturday.

Military courts ordered the six killings after 28 were executed on Tuesday in the wake of the coup bid, designed to overthrow the 10-month-old military junta in Sudan. Of the original 28, seven were retired officers.

The military courts, set up Monday, were still in session and have sentenced 14 other officers to prison after demoting and court martialling them, the newspaper reported, quoting Sudanese opposition sources.

Meanwhile, the AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT daily also reported here that not only soldiers but civilians were also to be tried by the military courts. Several political prisoners arrested last month for "implication in a plot" against the junta were transferred to a military base at Jabal al-Awliya', 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of Khartoum, it said, citing informed sources. Those prisoners, said to include Lieutenant 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mahdi, the son of former premier Sadiq al-Mahdi, and several members of the ex-leader's al-Ummah Party, will also be tried by the military courts. The al-Ummah Party was dissolved along with all other political and trade union groups when Mr. al-Mahdi's civilian government was overthrown by General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir on June 30 last year.

Spokesman Denies 'New Executions'

JN2904072790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Doha, 29 Apr (INA)—Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, Sudanese minister of information and official spokesman for the Sudanese Government, has denied that any new executions have been carried out in Sudan. He also denied that any civilians were arrested in the recent coup attempt.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, the Sudanese minister said that Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, will hold a news conference at 1300 today, Sudan time, to provide more details on the aborted coup attempt.

Minister Salihin stated that no soldiers have been executed. He said reports in some quarters to the effect that 66 soldiers were executed in the wake of the coup attempt were "baseless". The minister described as groundless a report published by a London-based newspaper to the effect that six more officers had been executed in Sudan.

'Official' Sources Deny Executions

LD2904121790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1050 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, April 29 (KUNA)—Official Sudanese sources Sunday denied Lebanese press reports that six

more army officers have been executed by firing squad, in addition to the 28 executed on Tuesday for involvement in the abortive coup of last Monday. The sources said that though the court martial for the unspecified number accused of collusion in the unsuccessful attempt were in session, no executions have been carried out after Monday, adding the Lebanese press reports are utterly incorrect.

The summary courts whose formation or site of convening have not been made public, were hurriedly formed on Tuesday to try those accused of staging the abortive coup at dawn on Monday.

Less than 24 hours after their formation 28 army officers, including three major generals have been executed by firing squad after the country's military ruler General 'Umar al-Bashir approved the courts sentences. One officer was acquitted, the official announcement said.

The official government spokesman, the culture and information minister said that 30 officers were involved in the abortive coup but later in the day the announcement said the courts were in session.

On Wednesday evening the official media said six other officers including two colonels have been acquitted, four dismissed from the active service and six others including two majors stripped of their ranks, kicked out of the army and sent to prison for periods ranging from three to 15 years. Though the official announcement said the courts were in session after the total of 42 executed and jailed or dismissed from the army, no sentences have been announced since Wednesday.

The official source also denied reports that civilians were being tried before the military courts, saying such reports are baseless and adding that no civilians are standing trial in connection with the abortive coup of last Monday. The unsuccessful coup was staged last Monday by what the government said at the time were "remnants of the dissolved political parties in collaboration with the rebel movement" of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement which has been fighting the central government since 1983.

The political commentator of the state-run radio in repeated comments over the radio during the last three days, confirmed the official stance vowing that the 10-month old military government of General 'Umar al-Bashir will keep an open eye on the remnants of the dissolved political parties and the rebel movement who staged the abortive coup last week.

But the state-owned newspaper AL-INGAZ AL-WATANI today said the abortive coup was staged "by leftist elements" who planned to kill leaders of the National Islamic Front, the Umma Party and Democratic Unionist Party. Quoting what it described as official sources, the daily said the coup plotters were expecting assistance "from outside the army," probably meaning the rebel forces of the SPLA, whom, he said, were on alert (?today), waiting for a signal from the plotters.

General al-Bashir announced he was giving a press conference at 1330 hours local time today probably to shed more light on the developments of last week.

Al-Bashir: Coupists Allied to 'Leftist Elements'

EA2904191490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1439 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], said that those who mounted the unsuccessful coup attempt at dawn last Monday [23 April] were allied to some leftist elements led by 11 retired officers who were hostile to the Armed Forces.

Addressing a news conference here at noon today, his excellency said that this movement had been unable to attract to itself any participation from the Armed Forces, with the exception of some junior officers and a mere handful of noncommissioned officers. He said those who carried out the attempt were a group comprising renegade and isolated elements, representing individuals and parties completely remote from the Sudanese people. This is shown by the fact that they began their move with an act of deception, by making out that a move against the salvation was afoot, and that they wanted to secure the revolution. Some of the soldiers fell for this, but only for a time.

NSRCC Chairman Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir said that the presence of [words indistinct] (?leadership) of the coupists in the control tower of Khartoum Airport, and their suspension of internal and external flights, thus clearing the runways. This indicated that they were expecting rapid outside support, in the shape of forces of Garang's movement arriving by air. His excellency told the news conference convened today that information at hand indicated that Air Force Major General Muhammad Uthman Ahmad Karrar, retired, had gone to London, from where he had proceeded to Addis Ababa with the aim of coordinating with Garang's movement. This was substantiated by a cable intercepted by SUNA last Sunday [22 April], stating that all the forces of Garang's movement had been (?alerted) to be ready to move on Monday.

Al-Bashir: Revolution Had No 'Secret Courts'

EA2904212990 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Apr (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has stressed that the latest failed coup conspiracy [passage indistinct].

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed that the revolution did not have secret courts, nor did it engage in secret assassinations, as had been charged abroad by some foreign news media. He said these were courts martial, as had been announced. They had before them all the evidence,

beginning with the confessions of the individuals of having participated in the failed coup attempt.

Officers Protest Trials, Dismissals of Coupists

JN2804190390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Sudanese sources have reported the contents of a memorandum recently conveyed by a number of Sudanese officers to the Sudanese deputy chief of staff. It contains criticisms of the way officers accused of involvement in the recent coup attempt were tried. Some of these points of criticism are:

They protested that death sentences against some of the coup leaders were passed by junior officers in violation of military regulations.

The defendants had none of the legal guarantees stipulated by military judiciary regulations, an indication that what happened was deliberate liquidation rather than a fair military trial.

The Armed Forces, which constitute a national institution for all the people, are now held captive by the Islamic Front.

The Army dismissals have created an atmosphere of anxiety and dissatisfaction, and the cases of all those dismissed should be reconsidered and decisions on the cases should be taken independently of the military establishment.

It transpires that the memo was submitted through military channels and that it is backed by some high-ranking officers in various Army corps.

Shamir Tells Mubarak Israel Ready To Discuss Peace

JN2904180190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has received a letter from Israeli Prime Minister-designate Yitzhaq Shamir through diplomatic channels dealing with the peace process in the Middle East, as our Cairo correspondent, Mustafa Bakri, tells us:

[Bakri] Our radio has learned that Shamir declared in his letter that he was ready to discuss all the ideas being submitted on peace if he succeeded in forming the new Israeli government. Shamir said he hoped that Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. coordination on the peace process would take place. Shamir said that the Israeli role has been ignored in the recent stage while consultations in this respect had been restricted to Egypt and the United States. Shamir stated that he hoped the Egyptian Government would agree to a high level Egyptian-Israeli meeting in Cairo, or in Tel Aviv, to discuss bilateral relations and the peace process in the region.

Shamir Interviews Discuss Peace Plan, Government

Unity Government, Settlements

TA2704182990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen outside the presidential residence in Jerusalem on 27 April—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] [Shamir] Everyone wants peace, therefore, it is not important what you call it. The content is what counts, and I hope we will achieve agreement on the content.

[Ronen] Despite the opposition of the Tehiya, Moledet, and other right-wing parties to your own peace initiative?

[Shamir] Well, everyone understands that, when one joins a common government, all the other components of the government must be taken into consideration. A government's platform cannot be the same as a party's platform.

[Ronen] At this moment, Mr. Prime Minister, we are talking about a government that is only made up of right-wing parties without the participation of the Alignment. Are you not even leaving them any empty portfolios?

[Shamir] Look, I am going to set up a government. I would not term it either right- or left-wing. I did not call the government they attempted to form earlier a dyed-in-the-wool left-wing government, even though it might have been much more a left-wing government than my government would be a right-wing government.

[Ronen] Therefore, I understand that you have not ruled out the participation of the Labor Party in your government?

[Shamir] I am not ruling out any possibilities until the end of time.

[Ronen] No, but would you be willing to leave open portfolios for Labor Party members in the current government?

[Shamir] I will not leave open portfolios; however, if there are some developments in the future we will act accordingly.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, what is your opinion of Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to establish a unity government and then hold elections in six months?

[Shamir] Well, I will have to look into it. One cannot reject it just like that. However, I can see one significant drawback to it. We should not concentrate today on efforts to establish a government for a short period. What Israel needs is a stable, permanent government, at least until the next elections.

[Ronen] So perhaps a government should be set up for, let us say, two years, with a decision that the next government will be formed under a different electoral system and with direct elections for the premiership?

[Shamir] The Knesset can—and other ways can be found—to introduce the changes deemed necessary today by a large segment of the public. It does not have to be tied to the establishment of the government.

[Ronen] Are you in favor of direct elections for the premiership?

[Shamir] In general, I favor this method. But this is connected to many other issues that must be dealt with accordingly, and again, I would not link this to the establishment of the government.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, there have already been angry reactions in the United States to the decisions to step up settlement, and about what happened in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. Are you not concerned about exacerbating the confrontation between Israel and the United States?

[Shamir] Regarding settlement, there have been no new decisions. Whatever we are doing is being carried out on a very small scale and in accordance with earlier government decisions.

[Ronen] And what about the Christian Quarter?

[Shamir] I hope this matter will be concluded in court. [passage omitted]

Elections, Settlement

TA3004052290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1845 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Special "Independence Day" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—recorded; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ahime'ir] As the highest-ranking statesman, as prime minister, what would you be

prepared to do to effect a change in public-political morals, a change for which many citizens yearn even though they cannot properly and precisely define it?

[Shamir] It is necessary to make certain changes in our democratic setup, and these changes must be discussed carefully. They should, perhaps, be deliberated without giving too much consideration to the transient interests of the various bodies, even though clearly when one usually mentions sweeping changes, political calculations always come to the fore. Nevertheless, there is every right to demand that we change several things over which there has been an outcry in the demand that they be altered.

[Ahime'ir] What, for instance?

[Shamir] For example, issues pertaining to elections, the weakness of the executive branch, and matters related to individuals shifting from one faction to another during a single Knesset session—all of those things over which there is a near complete general consensus. It is only necessary to find the right way and the general agreement of all the players and get them to accept these changes. Nevertheless, it is unnecessary to overdramatize things. It is not always necessary to regard the changes as the be-all and end-all, or believe that they will solve everything. It is necessary to weigh things carefully, examine them, and take serious and diligent action. [passage omitted]

[Ahime'ir] Mr. Prime Minister, I presume that after Independence Day you will proceed to start forming the government. If you succeed in setting one up, what is the fundamental political principle that will guide the government?

[Shamir] First of all we must have a government, without further delay, and it must be stable. This government should operate until the next elections, up to the legal date. It is pointless and extremely harmful for a country to deal with elections every few months. We have another two or two and a half years, and this government should be able to serve these two and a half years.

Additionally, there must be a certain measure of harmony among the various components of the government. There should not be in the government an inherent [previous word in English] dispute.

[Ahime'ir] But what is the political principle, or platform, for this government: Will it be the government's plan of 14 May 1989?

[Shamir] From the political standpoint, the government's plan dated 14 May 1989 is binding, and will be binding, on this government. We are committed to it. There are other issues as well, such as aliyah, on which we must concentrate efforts. I think that here we will encounter no disagreement. Also, economic and social problems, as well as security problems that have recently cropped up in the headlines, demand responses. But first of all we must have a government capable of deciding and taking action without the hurdles that come up day in and day out.

[Ahime'ir] Do the statements coming from Washington worry you? Especially those pertaining to the settlements beyond the Green Line?

[Shamir] Well, I would not say that I do not pay any attention to what is said in Washington. Washington is the most important political arena—not just for us—it is the most important arena in the world today for all the international community. However, I know that there are, were, and will be disagreements between Israel and the United States, and I devote considerable thought to ways to overcome these differences and to achieve continuous cooperation with the United States, in spite of these disagreements.

[Ahime'ir] Sir, will your new government call for massive Jewish settlement beyond the Green Line and beyond that agreed upon in the former national unity government's guidelines?

[Shamir] Well, today one cannot speak of massive settlement. I wish we could; not just beyond the Green Line, as you said, but in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. To my great regret, in light of the tasks we now face, we will not be able to deal with massive settlement. Nevertheless, some development, progression, and steps forward are always called for. We must not stand in one spot in any field whatsoever. I believe that this government will not accept any commitment not to take action in the field of settlement, development, and progress. [passage omitted]

'Yes to Baker' Slogan 'Riduculous'

TA2904052890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan and party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz on the occasion of Independence Day; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I must say that there is something slightly ridiculous in the very slogan: Yes to Baker. What does it mean: yes to Baker? We are pleased with our cooperation with the U.S. Government in the courageous effort to reach some sort of understanding with the Arab world on the conflict between us and them. But despite the understanding and the cooperation between us and the U.S. Government, no one can expect us to accept every proposal and every idea offered by the U.S. secretary of state, whatever it may be.

Nowhere in that plan does it say that an encounter must be held in Cairo; the context merely implies that meetings will be held in the course of related activity. It is not stated that the encounter must be held in Cairo, and it can be held in any other location; it is not stated that the meeting has to occur now, and it can take place at any other time.

What is obvious to us is the fact that if we are to have a legitimate representation of Palestinian Arabs, we will have to meet with a group of their people who are

conversant with election matters, and reach an understanding with them on how these elections are to be organized. The nature of the meeting was not stated outright, however, nor was the delegations' composition. This is merely a part of one of the stages.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 29 April also reports on Shamir's comments regarding a government which includes Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moldedet saying that such a government "will contrive to promote peace to a greater extent than a government comprising leftist elements preaching for a Palestinian state. According to him, the new government's guidelines will not differ greatly from those of the previous one."]

Herzog Delivers Independence Day Address

TA2904211190 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1755 GMT 29 Apr 90

["Address to the Nation" by President Hayim Herzog on the occasion of Independence Day—recorded at the presidential residence; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At this hour, the nation is in political and public confusion that was previously unheard of. The public has risen up to show its discontent over what it regards as a basic fault in the system of government. The feelings of frustration, anger, and protest do not emanate from only a single group, but pass like a thread through all groups in society and find an echo even in the corridors of government.

The public sees and hears the sights and voices of the political process and finds them hard to swallow. There have been only rare occasions on which our people, irrespective of outlook or political membership, have let out such a vocal protest. How can the citizen, who has been given the democratic right to freely choose his representatives, take with equanimity political phenomena which show a total disdain for democratic principles and distortions unworthy of a democratic society?

David Ben-Gurion demanded that we change our system, claiming that the lack of a direct link between the citizen and his Knesset representative would bring upon us dire results. Who can now truthfully contradict those remarks?

The presidential residence is inundated with an unprecedented wave of appeals by a worried public. Representatives of most sectors of the public have approached my office over what is a huge protest by the people of Israel. They are all genuinely concerned, they all desire the repair of the distorted situation.

I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to the leaders of the political system not to ignore the entire nation, because they are the voice of the people and the voice of God, which come from a genuine deep feeling which cannot and must not be ignored.

In searching for the right path, we should remember that the motive for our actions is to cultivate democratic values and preserve them. The demand for a change in the government system is correct and timely. It must find its expression and solution only through democratic means. We must also remember and issue a warning that a change in the system of government is not a panacea which will do away with all the hazards of our public life. The change must be accompanied by a change in norms in political behavior because no system, not even the best, is capable of operating well without the political culture of the public and its leaders. [passage omitted]

AFP Carries Excerpts of Islamic Dawn Communique

NC2904213490 Paris AFP in English 2128 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 29 (AFP)—A previously unknown group late Sunday announced that in the next 48 hours it would free U.S. hostage Frank Reed, a 57-year-old school director who has been in captivity for the past 43 months.

The Islamic Dawn Organization, in a communique to the west Beirut newspaper AL-NAHAR, confirmed an earlier announcement—also sent to AL-NAHAR—that Mr. Reed would be released.

The initial statement, although accompanied by a color photograph of the U.S. hostage, was unsigned.

"We want to stress that the first communique was from us and did not carry the signature of the Arab Revolutionary Cells-Force 'Umar al-Mukhtar," the statement said, referring to the group that had claimed Mr. Reed's September 9, 1986 kidnapping in west Beirut.

The second statement arrived at AL-NAHAR with a black and white photograph showing Mr. Reed, director of the Lebanese International School, bearded and in a white T-shirt.

It repeated its decision to "release the American hostage Frank Reed in the next 48 hours" and said he would be carrying "a message for the American administration." [passage omitted]

In calling themselves the Islamic Dawn Organization the kidnappers of Mr. Reed have chosen a name very close to that of a pro-Iranian underground group operating in Iraq.

The Iraqi group, loyal to Iran and fiercely opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in 1986 declared its links to Islamic Jihad, the oldest and best-known of the Lebanese groups holding Western hostages. [passage omitted]

Until Sunday the kidnapping of Mr. Reed had never been convincingly claimed.

Immediately after his abduction in 1986 an anonymous telephone caller purporting to speak for the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad said the group was holding Mr. Reed.

But Islamic Jihad on September 12, 1986 denied any involvement, noting that its internal operating procedures required that all claims be substantiated by a photograph of one of the hostages.

One day later an unidentified caller saying he represented the Arab Revolutionary Cells-Force 'Umar al-Mukhtar claimed responsibility for the abduction.

But the call was not followed up by a photograph of Mr. Reed.

Initial press reports on Sunday suggested that the Arab Revolutionary Cells had sent the first communique, prompting a warning to journalists from the Islamic Dawn Organization to "take care and to be precise in their reports.

"Otherwise we'll seek them out and punish them severely," the statement said.

Swiss Red Cross Hostages Remain Captive

NC2804200790 Paris AFP in English 1941 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 28 (AFP)—Hopes for the release of two Swiss hostages seized in south Lebanon last year dimmed Saturday evening although a Red Cross official said earlier he hoped they would be freed by the end of the day.

An International Red Cross delegation shuttled between Beirut and Sidon, in south Lebanon, on Thursday and Friday to meet parties involved in trying to secure the release of Elio Erriquez, 24, and Emanuel Christen, 33, two Red Cross technicians.

A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Marjolaine Martin, said there were no new developments.

"If they are not freed during the feast, we'll be disappointed but we won't lose hope," she said. "They could still be released after the feast."

She was referring to a statement on Sunday by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi calling for the two orthopaedic technicians to be released during the three-day Muslim feast of Al-Fitr, which closed the fasting month of Ramadan and ends in Lebanon Saturday midnight.

No group has claimed responsibility for their abduction on October 6 outside a Palestinian refugee camp in the outskirts of the southern port of Sidon.

In Sidon meanwhile the leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization, Mustafa Sa'd, whose forces control the city, said there was "still nothing new" in the Swiss hostage matter.

"I hope our efforts and our appeals for their release will yield positive results," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mr. Sa'd has been instrumental in past releases of Western hostages in the area. Mr. Erriquez and Mr. Christen are among 16 Western hostages believed to be held in Lebanon, mostly by pro-Iranian groups.

Reporters nevertheless staked out Mr. Sa'd's house and the ICRC was on alert for a possible release.

Informed sources in Sidon—home to the largest concentration of Palestinians in Lebanon—said the Swiss technicians' release was being held up by logistical problems.

Lebanese fundamentalist sources in Sidon, however, said Saturday that the delay may have been due to the adoption on Tuesday by the U.S. House of Representatives of a resolution naming Jerusalem as Israel's capital. [passage omitted]

In a separate development, a leading Iranian newspaper denounced the U.S. resolution on Jerusalem as proof that Mr. Polhill's release was a setback for Muslims.

On Saturday, the English-language Iranian daily KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL, considered close to hardline fundamentalists, denounced the resolution as proof that "U.S. policymakers cannot be trusted."

"If some act of goodwill is to be reciprocated true Muslims know what to expect and from whom," it said. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Remarks on Release of Hostages

LD2804175290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Al-'Allamah Seyyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of Lebanon's spiritual leaders, has called for the release of all hostages, in particular those Muslim hostages held by the Zionist regime and by the political Maronites in Lebanon.

He made the remarks in the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr prayers in Imam Reza Mosque, situated in the southern suburbs of Beirut. He criticized the way in which there are talks only of the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

Agreement With Soviets To Strengthen Defense

JN2904125390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad's working visit to the Soviet Union that began on Friday ended today. The president returned to Damascus a short while ago accompanied by the Syrian delegation. In a statement to our radio, Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah said that the visit was successful, useful, and fruitful, and that it would have a positive impact on friendship, relations, and cooperation between the two countries. He added that it would also have a positive impact on joint efforts to bring about a just peace in the Middle East and on confronting Israeli and U.S. resistance to international attempts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Syrian media have focused on President al-Asad's reception of Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dimitriy Yazov at his place of residence while in Moscow. The meeting was attended by General Talas and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. It was preceded by talks between the two countries' defense ministers. Our radio has learned that an agreement was reached to reinforce Syria's defense capabilities. The media also gave prominence to a protocol for consultations between the two countries' foreign ministries, signed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The protocol stipulates that regular talks and consultations be held by the two sides on current international and regional developments, including ways of avoiding war, achieving disarmament, and bringing about a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute based on the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force.

Iranian, Hizballah Officials Discuss Muslims

LD2904105290 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus, April 29, IRNA—Latest developments in Lebanon were discussed in a meeting between a ranking Iranian official and a leading member of the Lebanese Hizballah, here Saturday.

Seyyed Hussein Musavi, 'Abu Hesham', a member of the leadership Council of the Lebanese Hizballah, also informed Foreign Ministry Director General for Arab-Middle East and North Africa, Hojjat ol- Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khansari, of the status of Muslims in Lebanon.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khansari arrived here last week.

Afghanistan

Official Says State of Emergency To End 20 May

BK3004102090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 30 (AFP)—The Afghan Government will end a state of emergency on May 20 and President Najibullah will introduce sweeping constitutional reforms designed to end the country's 11-year-old civil war, a Politburo member announced here Mor·'ay [30 April]. Farid Mazdak, 32, a key member of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) told reporters that a Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly, would be summoned shortly after the lifting of the emergency. He said the Loya Jirga would adopt "radical changes" in the Constitution.

The state of emergency was imposed days after the completion of the Soviet troops pull out from Afghanistan in February of 1989.

"We had a democracy of bombs and tanks ... we have made very serious mistakes," he said in a press conference for foreign journalists, and added that the new reforms would include political and economic pluralism in an effort to erase the image of the PDPA as a communist party.

The PDPA was probably the only party to have worked against its own ideals since coming to power in a coup in 1978, he said in a reference to its embracing a pluralist platform. [sentence as received]

"The leadership oversimplified the role of the party. Everything flowed from top to bottom and people at the grass roots level had no opportunity to discuss, analyse or criticise the policies thrust on them," said Mr. Mazdak, the youngest member of Mr. Najibullah's Politburo.

He also said that "within the next three to four months" the PDPA would for the first time in the history of the 25-year-old party hold a congress to change its own constitution and make the party more democratic. The party congress would have executive powers to decide its future policies and positions in the leadership, it said [as received].

The outspoken young leader, who rose to prominence at the turn of the year as temporary head of the National Front, a grouping of leftist parties with the PDPA as its core, said the PDPA knew its own mistakes better than the resistance mujahidin which has been fighting the party since its formation. The reforms would be not necessarily to please the mujahidin but to restore peace and democracy in the country, wracked by an 11-year-long war, he said.

"Peace should be restored in our land, our people should feel safe in their homeland," Mr. Mazdak said.

He said he was happy he was not associated with the PDPA when it adopted a "style of politics (similar to that) in Eastern Europe", when communism was fashionable in developing countries. "I don't think they (the then PDPA leaders) had a good understanding of what Lenin said or of what Marxism was about," he said.

However Mr. Mazdak was careful not to criticize the 44-year-old President Najibullah, whose resignation the mujahidin resistance have demanded before they will consider any peace initiative. Mr. Mazdak dismissed any such demands as "undemocratic" and argued that the leaders of the mujahidin groups, if they followed that logic, should also step down before asking the president to leave. The radical changes in the government were aimed at clearing the way for national elections across the country, Mr. Mazdak said.

The need on both sides, he said, was not to count the dead but to work towards peace.

Wakil Speaks, Meets Foreign Diplomats at UN

LD2904081490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1540 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abdul Wakil delivered a speech on 27 April during the 18th UN special general assembly on international economic cooperation, which focuses on speeding up economic development in the developing countries. [passage omitted] Yesterday he met UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. During this meeting both sides exchanged views on further strengthening the UN role, especially that of the secretary general himself in connection with ensuring more rapid solution of issues relating to Afghanistan.

Both sides stressed that the office of the UN secretary general in Afghanistan and Pakistan should launch effective activities for implementing the provisions of the resolution of the 44th UN General Assembly on political solution of the Afghan issue and realization of the Geneva accords by all sides involved. The talks ended in an atmosphere of full understanding.

According to another report, 'Abdul Wakil met yesterday the deputy foreign minister and head of the delegation of the Republic of Iran to the special session of the general assembly and also with His Excellency Amari Muhammad Musa, head of the Egyptian delegation.

During these meetings, the foreign minister spoke about recent developments in the country and the lawful and legal demands of the Republic of Afghanistan for restoring its membership in the Islamic Conference Organization, and especially with regard to the forthcoming conference of foreign ministers of this organization, which is due to be held in Cairo. In return the heads of the delegations of Iran and Egypt expressed their full understanding on ensuring peace and security in the Republic of Afghanistan by political and peaceful means.

According to another report, 'Abdul Wakil also met the foreign minister of Zimbabwe in the UN Headquarters.

During this meeting views were exchanged on the resolutions on Afghanistan passed by the session of heads of states or governments of member states of the Nonaligned Movement, held in Belgrade. Meanwhile the Zimbabwe side stressed his country's continuous support for the peaceful efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan for ending war and bloodshed in the country as soon as possible.

Afghan Jet Allegedly Bombs Pakistani Territory

BK2904152890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 29 (AFP)—An Afghan jet entered Pakistan's airspace Sunday [29 April] and dropped a bomb on the village of Ghulam Khan, bordering Afghanistan, residents said. No loss of human life or property was reported.

The incident occurred at 11:40 a.m. (06:40 GMT) in the tribal area of northern Waziristan, witnesses said. The bomb fell 1,000 yards (meters) from the Toochi scout (militia) headquarters, killing three goats, they said.

Pakistan gives shelter to Afghan mujahidin groups fighting the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

1,100-Strong Rebel Group Surrenders in Konduz

LD3004084290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 29, BAKHTAR—A 1,100-member group of the Afghan opposition previously linked with Rabbani extremist band, by ceasing armed activities in the vicinities of Qaleh-ye-Zal district of Konduz province, joined recently to the policy of national reconciliation in the said district, reports a military correspondent at BAKHTAR.

In a function which was held on this occasion, and participated by large number of inhabitants, state and party officials of the said district, Col. Gen. Abdul Baqi head of the defence and national security of the Presidential Office of the Republic of Afghanistan, while welcoming the group, explained to the participants the humane measures and peaceful efforts of the state of the republic of Afghanistan, aimed at cessation of war and ensurance of a country- wide peace.

Reciprocally, Salim, ringleader of the said group on behalf of his men pledged their all-out sacrifices for the ensurance of peace, security, and implementation of the philanthropic and Islamic policy of national reconciliation. While the joining of this armed group to the policy of national reconciliation, the security of 16 villages of Qaleh-ye-Zal district has been maintained. [sentence as received]

Badghis Governor, 600 Others Defect to Mujahidin

BK3004121190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, the governor of Badghis Province, Mr. 'Abdullah; the chief of provincial militia, Colonel (Ahmad Shah); and 600 Kabul regime military officers and militiamen are reported to have defected and joined the mujahidin. According to MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency, the defection took place recently in the (?Qades) District of Badghis.

It is now known that the governor of the Kabul regime in Badghis and his [words indistinct] associate had maintained clandestine links with the mujahidin commander, Mr. (Fathullah), looking for an opportune time to join them. Those who have joined the mujahidin also brought along with them a large quantity of light and heavy weapons and ammunition. There are also reports that more large-scale desertion by the Kabul regime troops is expected soon.

Kabul Weathers 27 Apr Rocket Barrage

Anniversary Marked

BK2704152690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Kabul, April 27 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance marked the 12th anniversary of the Marxist revolution here Friday [27 April] with an intense barrage of rockets fired on the capital as troops engaged rebels in the mountains overlooking the city. Residents in different parts of Kabul reported dozens of rockets exploding in their areas including one just outside the international airport which killed four people.

The stepped up attacks came on the anniversary of the 1978 uprising which brought the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to power and as government troops fought to dislodge rebels from their rocket positions overlooking the city in the Paghman mountains.

An airport spokesman said an Egyptian-made Sakar-30 [as received] rocket hit within one kilometre (half a mile) of the runway minutes before a Soviet IL-76 transporter prepared to take off. There was no damage to the airport or aircraft, but the rocket hit a house killing four people inside instantly, the spokesman said.

Government spokesman Humayan Mukammal said the mujahidin resistance fighters had been pounding the city with rockets throughout Friday, but could not immediately give details. Residents in the northern part of the city said they counted some five to six rockets every hour since mid-day Friday while some 15 rockets slammed parts of the city centre within less than four hours.

Most shops and offices remained closed and fewer people were on the streets because of the Friday Moslem

holiday which also coincided with the Eid festival, or the end of the Moslem fasting period.

The intense mujahidin rocket attack came despite attempts by government troops backed by Uzbek mercenaries to expand the security cordon around Kabul by taking on resistance fighters entrenched in deep caves in the Paghman region some 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of here. [passage omitted]

Five Killed, Eight Hurt

LD2704162490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] While our religious compatriots were engaged in marking the second day [27 April] of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, the Pakistani-backed criminal extremists fired 12 surface-to-surface missiles at residential regions of Kabul city.

The military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that as a result of this criminal action by the extremists five of our compatriots were martyred and another eight persons were injured. The injured persons were quickly taken to the hospitals where they are under intensive treatment.

Food Supply Convoy Arrives in Qandahar 28 Apr

LD2804175790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Another supply convoy loaded with goods needed by the people which set off from Torghondi for Qandahar some time ago has arrived.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that the convoy was welcomed by officials of that province and local people. The convoy carries flour, wheat, rice, ghee, sugar, and other foodstuffs and primary goods. Some of the foodstuffs from this convoy will be sent to the neighboring provinces in order to meet their requirement.

India

Gujral Rules Out UN Mediation on Kashmir

Addresses News Conference

BK2804075790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has ruled out any necessity for the United Nations to mediate between India and Pakistan over the situation in Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in London last night on his way back home from New York, he said: What is there to mediate about? Mr. Gujral was reacting to Pakistan's proposal for a third party mediation to solve the Kashmir issue. He said no mediation is needed by us. The real issue is Pakistan's interference in our internal affairs. He reiterated that the intervention of any third party on whatever plea would not be acceptable to India.

Mr. Gujral accused the Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, of flouting the agreement on reducing tension and avoiding confrontation between the two countries. Mr. Gujral said that Mr. Khan changed his commitment he made during his New York talks. Mr. Gujral, who met the foreign ministers of about 25 countries at the United Nations, said that the world today agrees with India that Pakistan is not only trying to distort realities in Kashmir, but is also trying to destroy the secular fabric of India. The minister said that Pakistan's support to subversives in Kashmir on the basis of religion is to revive the two-nation theory which the Indian Muslims have rejected categorically.

More on Gujral's Comments

BK2804090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The External Affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has said that there is no need for the United Nations to mediate between India and Pakistan over the situation in Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in London last night on his way back home from New York, he said there is nothing to mediate about. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

Asked about the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's, comments that India is not able to manage Kashmir, Mr. Gujral said Ms. Bhutto should be able to manage her Sind and Balochistan Provinces better. He said the problem in Kashmir is temporary and if Pakistan tries to project it as a major one, then the first victim of it will be Pakistan itself. Mr. Gujral reiterated that India is strongly averse to war and it wants to live as Pakistan's good neighbor.

BJP Lauds Refusal of U.S. Proposal

BK2704160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has welcomed the stand taken by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in refusing to accept proposals made by Washington to have negotiations with Pakistan in the presence of representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union. Speaking to newsmen in Bhubaneswar today, the party's national secretary, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said that the center should not entertain any proposals to enter into negotiations with Pakistan except in the issue when Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is to be handed back to India.

Commentary Assesses Foreign Ministers' UN Talks

BK2804110190 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Apr 90

[PTI's Sudhakar Nair commentary]

[Text] The dangerous threat to world peace brewing between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue is expected to subside with both the neighboring countries agreeing to take necessary steps to defuse tension and avoid a military conflict. This understanding followed talks between the foreign minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, early this week in New York. The talks taking place in the background of a rash of terrorist activities in the Kashmir valley had only a limited positive outcome since the basic differences between New Delhi and Islamabad on the Kashmir issue remained as wide as ever. Though the need to check escalating tension was seen as a step in the positive direction, the reiteration of Pakistan's known stand that Kashmir was not an integral part of India appears to leave a lurking fear that Islamabad will continue to play the Kashmir card for some more time. Mr. Gujral's repeated assertion that all bilateral problems should be sorted out on the basis of the 1972 Simla pact does not seem to weigh on the mind of Pakistan.

Mr. Khan continued to harp on the theme that the people of Kashmir have to exercise their right of self-determination which was rooted in the relevant resolution of 1949 of the UN Security Council. As expected, Mr. Gujral straightaway dismissed Pakistan's stand saying that the resolution was dead since the signing of the Simla pact. It is unfortunate that the resolution was sought to be revived even though the Simla pact was justified by the late Mr. Z.A. Bhutto and endorsed by the Pakistani National Assembly. A positive feature that emerged at the talks was to keep all the channels of communication open and that the director general of military operations of the respective countries are in constant touch with each other. A logical influence of this understanding is that there was a need for more dialogue which will prevent any action in undue haste which might prove costly for both the countries. Of course, there is a proposal floated by U.S. congressman, Mr. Stephen Solarz, to have the U.S. and the USSR to invite Mr. Gujral and Mr. Khan to Moscow for their mediation at the meeting of the foreign ministers of the two superpowers next month. Though New Delhi is not against any opening for dialogue, it may not back the proposal since it is known to be against internationalizing the Kashmir issue as the Simla pact was an adequate instrument to resolve bilateral problems.

Pakistan seems to be bent on not giving any credit to India for whatever diplomatic success achieved in agreeing to reduce tension by adopting a tough stance within hours of the talks that the danger of a war still persisted. Mr. Khan is of the view that it would be an exaggeration to believe that both the countries have achieved a breakthrough. It was amply made clear by Mr. Gujral that New Delhi stood for peace and wanted to avoid conflict. The talks were useful from India's point of view since it was able to put forward in detail its known position, leaving it to Pakistan to respond in a same manner on how best to come to grass-root realities. During the talks Pakistan was urged to stop supporting terrorism and take some credible steps to show that it was doing so. India has given documentary evidence to Pakistan on its role in abetting terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab. Terrorism and support for terrorism is not a friendly attitude, Mr. Gujral told Mr. Khan. This statement is considered significant at a time when the international community was fed up with terrorist acts in other parts of the world. In a significant political development, a large number of foreign ministers, including some from Islamic countries, have also reaffirmed their support for the Indian position on Kashmir during separate meetings with Mr. Gujral. If Pakistan is keen on genuine normalization of relations, it should seriously address itself to concerns expressed by India on the situation at the border, especially on the issue of terrorism, and create a climate of peace in the subcontinent.

Editorial Notes Army Chief's Warning to Bhutto

BK2804095490 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Apr 90 p 8

[Editorial: "A Dark Portent"]

[Text] How fragile democracy is in Pakistan has been shown by Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg's open warning to Ms. Benazir Bhutto that the army will not be a "silent spectator" to the deteriorating law and order situation. This is not the first time that he has sought to disabuse the Pakistani politicians of any notion that the army has renounced politics for ever. He had made it clear earlier, too, that although the army had allowed a smooth transfer of power to an elected government after the death of Gen. Zia, it was keeping a close watch over that government's performance. He had, in other words, left Ms. Benazir Bhutto in no doubt that as far as the army was concerned she was on probation. The army establishment's stance was a logical corollary to the fact that the Armed Forces have wielded power in Pakistan for most of the 43 years after its birth, with the civilian politicians being allowed only brief spells at the helm. And every time an ambitious general staged a coup to recapture power, it was on the pretext that the squabbling politicians had failed to prevent widespread disorder.

The trouble in Sind no doubt is becoming graver by the day, with the provincial government of Ms. Bhutto's party unable to keep the peace between the Sindis and the Muhajirs. What, in addition, seems to have spurred the army is the division of the politicians virtually into two warring camps, one led by Ms. Bhutto and the other by her implacable enemy, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, the Chief Minister of Punjab. He, in fact, is believed to have been egging on the army establishment, dominated, as it has traditionally been, by Punjabis, to topple her. It is more than possible that Ms. Bhutto's own bid to increase her influence within the army by, for instance, removing officers, known to have been Zia loyalists, from key posts has had the contrary effect of fomenting discontent in the army hierarchy. Such things happen in every

country. But in the case of Pakistan, ruled by the army for so many years prior to the 1988 elections, unrest among the bulk of officers for one reason or the other is apt to prove a prelude to the staging of yet another coup.

Normally, such a turn of events in the neighbouring country would be of concern to India only as a setback to the cause of democracy. But Indo-Pak relations are now at a critical juncture following the flare-up of Pak fomented terrorism in the Kashmir valley. What will, therefore, be of primary interest to New Delhi is whether Gen. Aslam Beg is trying to use the border tension, too, to end Pakistan's brief honeymoon with democracy. Of no less importance will be the U.S. view of the Pakistan army chief's warning to Ms. Bhutto. There is no doubt that Washington's strong support for her has been one of the factors behind her survival in office so far. But is it Gen. Beg now who is acting in tandem with Washington?

Pakistan Warned of Measures To Defend Integrity

BK2804145090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] India has strongly warned Pakistan that there will be no compromise on the measures deemed necessary to protect its integrity. There should be no doubt that India will not tolerate infringement of its sovereignty and integrity and will take appropriate measures to prevent such occurrences. In a strongly worded statement in New Delhi this evening, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that it is regrettable that soon after his talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in New York on Thursday [26 April], the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, should have decided it fit to indulge in rhetoric and allegations based on falsehood. He spoke of a war psychosis having been created in the past few weeks, but omitted to mention, perhaps deliberately, that the situation was the direct and inevitable outcome of Pakistan's attempts to train, arm, aid, and abet terrorism directed against India.

More on Warning to Pakistan

BK2804160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Excerpts] India has strongly warned Pakistan that any infringement of its sovereignty and integrity will not be tolerated. It will take appropriate measures to prevent such occurrences. In a strongly worded statement in New Delhi this evening, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry reminded Islamabad of its responsibility to prevent infiltration taking place from their side into Jammu and Kashmir. [passage omitted]

The spokesman said the gun-wielding religious fundamentalists supported by Pakistan have indulged in arson, kidnapping and killing of innocent citizens, including renowned Islamic scholars like [Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University] Professor Mushirul Haq. These abhorant activities constitute the real denial of human rights in Kashmir.

The spokesman reminded the Pakistan Government that the UN resolutions of 1948 and '49 on Kashmir were not implemented because of Pakistan's refusal to withdraw its troops from the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir which was a precondition in the resolution. He said the main purpose of the resolutions has been fulfilled with the adoption of a constitution for Jammu and Kashmir. This process has been further strengthened by numerous elections in which the people of the state repeatedly exercised their democratic choice.

Official Spokesman's 28 Apr Statement on Kashmir

BK3004124590 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1041 GMT 30 Apr 90

["Spokesman's Statement Dated 28th April on Kashmir"—quotation marks as received]

[Text] The spokesman refuted the misleading and objectionable statements contained in the verbatim record of the press conference of the Pakistan foreign minister at New York on Thursday, the 26th April. The spokesman said: "We have seen reports of the press conference in New York on the 26th of April, at which the foreign minister of Pakistan made several misleading and objectionable statements in a manner which was a negation of the approach, he had indicated during his earlier meeting with External Affairs Minister Gujral on the 25th of April. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan had spoken of 'a war psychosis having been created' in the past few weeks. He omitted to mention perhaps deliberately that this situation was the direct and inevitable outcome of Pakistan's attempts to train arm, aid and abet terrorism directed against India and also of the dangerously inflammatory rhetoric in Pakistan including talk of a 1,000 year war and exhortations to terrorists to take to arms and also threats to send 1000's of armed and trained saboteurs across the international border and the line of control. In Pakistan there are attempts by the governments, both central and provincial, to raise funds for the support of insurgency.

Media bellicosity and distortion, both government sponsored, had crossed all bounds. Advertisements had appeared in the press asking for recruits for 'jehad' [holy war].

Politicians have been boasting of their proven ability to organise training camps in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir without federal government being able or perhaps unwilling to do anything about it.

The internal situation in Kashmir is the creation of Pakistani-supported and assisted terrorists. These gun-totting, religious fundamentalists have indulged in arson, kidnappings, terrorising the civilian population, killing of innocent citizens and the murder of officials discharging their duties. They did not even desist from the abduction and brutal murder of a renowned Islamic scholar like Prof. Mushirul Haq. These abhorrent activities constitute real violence and the real denial of human rights in Kashmir.

All that the government of India is doing is merely to discharge its responsibility for maintaining law and order, saving the lives of innocent civilians and protecting its own people from the terror unleashed by these trigger happy militants. The government is doing this with the minimum force necessary to achieve the desired results in the given difficult circumstances; the law enforcement authorities have acted in an exemplary manner compared to the actions of other governments in similar circumstances. To cite only one example, in 1973, the government of Pakistan had used the Pakistan Air Force to bomb its own citizens in Balochistan; and it tackled that situation at a cost of 3000 lives.

It is a well known fact that the United Nations resolutions of 1948 and 1949 could not be implemented because of Pakistan's refusal to withdraw its troops from the Pakistan occupied Kashmir as was mandated, as a precondition, by these very resolutions. India's acceptance of these resolutions was time-specific and subject to several assurances of the United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan, including the assurance that Pakistan has no locus standi in Jammu and Kashmir. In the meantime, the basic purpose behind the United Nations resolutions was fulfilled by the adopting of a constitution for Jammu and Kashmir by a freely elected constituent assembly in 1956. This process was further reinforced by the numerous elections, through which the people of the state have repeatedly exercised their democratic choice.

In any case, by thrusting two wars on India in 1965 and 1971, Pakistan changed the entire context of our bilateral relations and arrangements.

The Simla agreement since 1972, became the basic framework for the conduct of our bilateral relations. When two states wilfully and consciously entered into this solemn agreement, constituting a bilateral treaty, in full awareness of the previous arrangements, there was no doubt that the commitments undertaken under this bilateral treaty superseded all previous arrangements.

It is indeed regrettable that, soon after his talks with the external affairs ministry, the Pakistan foreign minister should have deemed it fit to indulge in rhetoric and allegations, based on falsehood. What the Pakistan foreign minister said about civilians crossing the line of control is a deliberate and wanton attempt at rationalisation of blatant violations of the sovereignty of India. We would wish to remind the government of Pakistan that "it is their responsibility to prevent infiltrations taking place from their side of the line of control. Let there be no doubt that the government of India will not tolerate infringements of its sovereignty and integrity and will take appropriate measures to prevent such occurrences. There will be no compromise on the measures necessary to protect our integrity."

Question: What is the time limit to your patience? When would the time be appropriate for talks?

Answer: I would merely reiterate what the external affairs minister had said in New York and London, viz, that for any meaningful improvement in our bilateral relations, there must be credible evidence on the ground that Pakistan is desisting from its abetment of terrorism and violence.

Question: When will your tolerance run out?

Answer: Indian civilisation is based on tolerance and Indian tradition is renowned for its patience and tolerance. It is unfortunate that this has not been reciprocated in equal measure, so far, by the other side; indeed it has been quite the opposite.

Question: You mentioned that India would not compromise on its integrity. Could you expand on that?

Answer: The phrase is self-explanatory. As I said earlier, there would be no compromise on measures necessary to protect our integrity. The Pakistani intentions also are self-evident.

Question: Does this mean you rule out the possibility of cross-border attacks?

Answer: I said the phrase "measures necessary to protect our integrity" is self-explanatory.

Question: Does it mean you rule out this possibility?

Answer: We rule out nothing.

Question: You mentioned that there have been statements from the Pakistani side about war for a thousand years. Whose statements are these?

Answer: Such statements have been made at the highest level. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's assurance at his meeting with our minister here in January, to curtail rhetoric and incitement, have been observed more in breach.

Singh Claims Pakistan Moved Army Units to Border

BK2804161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has charged Pakistan with providing a base for promoting international terrorism. Addressing a massive public meeting at Hazrat Mahal Park in Lucknow this evening after unveiling a statue of [freedom fighter] Subhash Chandra Bose, he said Pakistan is training terrorists and secessionists by providing them with sophisticated weapons, including anti-tank mines, rocket launchers, and machineguns and then directing them toward India. He said Pakistan has moved its army units, including tanks and radars, near the India-Pakistan border.

The prime minister said that the foreign minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, will be visiting China for further bilateral talks. He described the current visit of the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, to China as very good.

About relations with Nepal, Mr. Singh said that these would improve further. He expressed confidence that all bilateral problems will be solved expeditiously.

Rules Out Kashmir Talks With Pakistan

BK2904032590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has ruled out holding talks with Pakistan in view of its continuous interference in the internal affairs of the country.

Talking to newsmen in Lucknow last night, he pointed out that there appears to be no sincerity on the part of Pakistan to improve bilateral relations. Charging Pakistan of instigating insurgency in Kashmir, he said India will give a befitting reply because it has to maintain its territorial integrity.

Asked whether India will reconsider its nuclear policy, Mr. V.P. Singh said if Pakistan manufactured the atom bomb, we will have to reconsider the nuclear policy for the security of the country.

Referring to the United States' decision to retain India on the trade hit-list under Super 301, Mr. Singh said that India will not yield to any pressure.

In reply to a question he said: As for the directive of the court, status quo will be maintained in regard to the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Mashjid [disputed site claimed by Hindu and Muslim communities] issue. He however pointed out that negotiations are on to find an amicable settlement.

Stresses Position on Omnibus Trade Act

BK2904094490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that India will not negotiate with the USA on the Omnibus Trade Act under which the U.S. president, Mr. George Bush, has put New Delhi on the hit list. Mr. Singh was talking to newsmen aboard an IAF [Indian Air Force] aircraft last night while returning from Lucknow. He said on the political side, the United States has shown a lot of flexibility. In this context, he mentioned Washington's endorsement of the Simla accord. Mr. Singh said India appreciates the American position on Kashmir. But, there are some areas of differences and the two should not be mixed up. He said India has made its position clear to the United States on Super 301, including the social goals of the Indian banks for alleviation of poverty and other compulsions. This point should be appreciated by the United States, the prime minister asserted.

Turning to the home front, Mr. Singh said stern action will be taken to bring down the prices of sugar, edible oil, tea, and cement if they are not reduced by next month. When a reporter observed that prices have shot up due to the effective rise in petroleum and diesel prices, Mr. Singh said that this was not correct, and the traders are only indulging in jugglery.

Home Minister Comments on Kashmir Situation

Claims Results Against Subversives

BK2804091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] The home minister says the current crackdown on subversives in the Kashmir valley has yielded results and the pressure will continue. Mufti Muhammad Sayeed was having an informal talk with newsmen on board a BSF [Border Security Force] aircraft on the way to Jammu this morning. He pointed out that the message has formally been conveyed that those harboring terrorists or secretly supporting them will be taken to task and secession will never be allowed. The home minister, however, cautioned that the coming two months will be crucial as infiltration from across the border will increase when the snow melts over various mountain passes. Mufti Sayeed expressed the hope that the present phase of turmoil in the state will pass off and the special developmental projects can be taken up in Jammu and Kashmir involving the youth.

He has since arrived in Jammu to hold talks with the state authorities.

Speaks of Returning Migrants

BK2804162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] The home minister says that conditions are being created in Kashmir valley for safe return of migrants. Reviewing the situation in the state with senior officials in Jammu today, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, said that migrants would be encouraged to go back to their homes by restoring confidence among them. He affirmed that the government is facing with courage and determination the challenge posed by Pakistan-trained subversives in the valley. He reviewed the law and order situation and the relief given to the migrants.

Talking to A!R [All India Radio] special correspondent, Akshay Raut, several migrant families in the relief camps said that they are eager to return to the valley, but would do so when the situation is created there in which they can move without fear.

Visits Kashmir, Denies Excesses

BK2904095090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The home minister has announced that people will not be allowed to migrate from the Kashmir valley and all protection will be given to them at their own places. Mufti Muhammad Sayeed told newsmen in Jammu today that the designs of terrorist outfits like the Hezbul Mujahidin to segregate the communities will not

be permitted to succeed. Particular areas in vulnerable villages will be cordoned off and facilities provided by organizing camps. Mr. Sayeed also announced that citizens councils will be set up in all districts to sort out people's grievances. This, he said, will be the beginning of a political process which can commence in the state in the true sense once the fear psychosis is removed. Mufti Sayeed denied any excesses by security forces in the ongoing searches in the valley.

Replying to questions, he said that revival of the state assembly is not the immediate priority of the center.

Referring to Pakistan's role, the home minister said that the present level of interference by Islamabad might be the turning point, as after this it will not venture to attempt destabilization in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

Says More Troops To Be Deployed

BK2904150890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The center has directed the Jammu and Kashmir government to immediately set up well-equipped relief camps in Srinagar, Baramula, and Anantnag Districts as a step to prevent migration from the Kashmir Valley. The camps which will also serve as transit points for migrants returning from home and other places will be given full protection and necessary facilities. This was announced by the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, in Jammu today after reviewing the situation in the state with senior officials. He told newsmen that among other confidence-building measures, police protection will be provided to minority concentration areas in the valley. AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, Akshay Rout, reports that the government is keen to foil the designs of the extremist outfits, like the Hezbul Mujahidin, to segregate different communities by making the minorities targets of attack.

The home minister also announced that citizens committees will be set up in all districts of the state to redress the people's grievances. This, he said, will link the people with the administration till normalcy is restored and proper political process resumed.

Later, talking to newsmen on board the BSF [Border Security Force] aircraft on his way back to New Delhi, the home minister said additional deployment of forces will be made to counter any possible large-scale infiltration from Pakistan in the coming weeks as schools and offices reopen in the valley.

State Minister Discusses Kashmiri Migrants' Return

BK2904131990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, said in New Delhi that a long-term policy to create conditions in the Kashmir Valley for the early return of the migrants is being worked out by the center. He told a meeting of the representatives of Kashmiri migrants today that employees of certain departments who have left the valley will be asked to go to Srinagar. They will be provided adequate protection.

Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu on 3-Day Visit

Arrives in New Delhi 29 Apr

BK2904082290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The Japanese prime minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, arrived in New Delhi today on a three-day official visit to India. He was given a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. Mr. Kaifu inspected the interservices guard of honor. The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, and his cabinet colleagues were present to receive the visiting dignitary.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Kaifu said he would discuss with Indian leaders ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. He would also discuss what both Japan and India together can do for peace and prosperity of the world. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said that the two countries already have very fruitful collaboration and expressed the hope that Mr. Kaifu's visit will help further expand cooperation not only in economic, but in other fields also.

Holds Talks With Singh

BK2904162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that if Pakistan takes one sincere step toward defusing tension, India will respond by two steps. This was conveyed by the prime minister to the visiting Japanese prime minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, in New Delhi today. Mr. Kaifu arrived in the capital earlier today on a three-day official visit. Mr. V.P. Singh said good relations between the countries are maintained not by good arguments, but by good faith and action. Both the leaders held discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues for nearly two hours.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations, an official spokesman said that the prime minister told Mr. Kaifu that India is exercising utmost restraint despite provocations from Pakistan. India is keeping communication channels open. He gave an account of the several initiatives India has taken to improve relations with neighboring countries. He mentioned the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force from Sri Lanka, the external affairs minister's visit to Bangladesh, the Nepalese foreign minister's visit to India, and the successful visit of the Chinese foreign minister to New Delhi. He said all these efforts with a positive approach have led to better communication, understanding and removal of suspicion. The only exception to this pattern was Pakistan.

Responding to Mr. V.P. Singh's remarks, the Japanese prime minister said that Japan applauds India's deep

commitment, particularly to peace in the region and Asia in general. He said bilateral problems between India and Pakistan should be solved through negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

The official spokesman said that during the discussions both India and Japan reached a broad agreement to work together at the Uruguay round of talks and see how they could avoid unilateral action and exclusive arrangements. Both sides agreed on the need to strengthen North-South dialogue. The Japanese prime minister suggested that India and Japan should have frequent official-level contacts to widen frontiers of cooperation. Both the leaders took note of the dramatic changes in the Eastern Europe and welcomed the detente between the two superpowers. The Japanese prime minister extended an invitation to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, to visit Japan, which was accepted. Earlier, the Japanese prime minister was given a ceremonial welcome when he arrived in New Delhi.

Later, Mr. Kaifu called on the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and discussed bilateral matters and the international situation with special reference to promotion of peace and prosperity in Asia and the Pacific region. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, is hosting a banquet in honor of the visiting dignitary tonight.

Urges 'Self-Restraint' for India, Pakistan

OW2904173090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1511 GMT 29 Apr 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] New Delhi, April 29 KYODO—Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called on Sunday [29 April] for self-restraint from India and Pakistan and for a peaceful settlement to mounting tensions over Jammu and Kashmir, Japanese officials said. Indian prime minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh acknowledged the importance of peace but stopped short of specifically committing himself to Kaifu's request. Singh was quoted as saying "India will advance two steps forward to pave the way for peace in the region if Pakistan goes one step forward." Singh told Kaifu that India would like to use its potential not in military affairs but in economic development.

Kaifu, who is scheduled to visit Pakistan later this week, is expected to file a similar plea for a peaceful solution to the India-Pakistan dispute over Jammu and Kashmir. Kaifu urged a resolution to the decades-long dispute in the spirit of the 1972 Simla accord, in which India and Pakistan agreed to resolve the dispute through negotiations.

Since 1947 India and Pakistan have fought twice over Jammu and Kashmir, the only Moslem state in predominantly Hindu India. Over 300 people have been killed there amid secessionist disturbances since January.

Soon after flying into New Delhi from an overnight stopover in Bangkok, Kaifu went into the first round of talks with Singh in the Indian prime minister's office. The talks focused on international affairs.

Earlier in the day in Bangkok, Kaifu talked with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan in a hastily arranged session and agreed to strengthen contacts to bring peace to Cambodia.

The Japanese leader, currently on a nine-day, five-nation South Asian swing, will have a second round of talks with Singh on Monday [30 April] to discuss mainly bilateral affairs between Japan and India.

During the 100-minute meeting with Singh, Kaifu touched on rapid changes in the international community, particularly moves toward democracy in Eastern Europe and progress in U.S.-Soviet dialogue. He pointed to the need to also relate the new wave of changes in Europe to the Asia-Pacific region, officials said.

The two men shared the view that Japan and India should promote exchanges to help stabilize Asia, the officials said. Singh welcomed Japan's support for Eastern Europe's democratization efforts, they said.

Kaifu urged India to become party to the 1963 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Singh told Kaifu that India is not a signatory member of the treaty but maintains the peaceful use of nuclear power.

Kaifu and Singh covered international economic affairs and agreed on efforts to maintain a multilateral trade system, Japanese officials said in a briefing to reporters.

The Indian prime minister urged Japan to take initiatives in overcoming conflicts of interest between the rich North and poor South.

Kaifu replied that North-South dialogue is important for the develoment of the world economy.

Kaifu urged India as leader of developing countries to contribute to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks, which is scheduled for conclusion at the end of 1990.

Singh criticized the United States' citing of India for unfair trade practices under the Super 301 clause of its 1988 trade act and called for consideration for developing countries in the Uruguay round.

Kaifu told Singh that leaders of the world's seven major advanced democracies will meet in Houston, Texas, in July and discuss the future of a new international order in the wake of rapid changes in Eastern Europe. Kaifu was quoted as saying the Houston summit will also look at how to address the problem of burgeoning debts in developing countries, the maintenance of sustained growth in the world economy and how to stem trade protectionism.

The Japanese leader offered Singh an invitation to visit Japan. Singh told Kaifu he will go to Tokyo at the appropriate time.

Later in the day, Kaifu attended a banquet given in his honor at the government guesthouse, Hyderabad House, and said that Japan and India must strengthen cooperation for the sake of Asia and the rest of the world.

Singh said "our cultural contacts have spanned the centuries. Both our countries have a stake in stability, in peaceful and harmonious development and in an equitable world order."

Meets Vice President, Foreign Minister

OW2904213490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1545 GMT 29 Apr 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] New Delhi, April 29 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told India's Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma on Sunday [29 April] Japan will contribute to helping build up a new international order in the wake of rapid reforms in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Kaifu visited the vice president following a 100-minute summit session with Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

The Japanese prime minister said he hoped the current mood of detente in Europe would also have repercussions in Asia. Sharma told Kaifu he hopes Japan will play a major role in global affairs.

Kaifu also met with External Affairs Minister Kumar Inder Gujral later in the day.

Speaks at Delhi Banquet

BK3004031290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The prime minister said any incitement of secessionism aided by terrorism and distortion of religion will be firmly rebuffed [as heard]. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was speaking at the banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Japanese prime minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, in New Delhi this evening. He said while there is full freedom to give expression to legitimate grievances, subversion of the rule of law will not be tolerated.

The prime minister stressed the need for all states to adhere to the principle of inviolability of territorial integrity of other states. He said developments like the reopening of economies by developing nations and the changes taking place in Eastern Europe offer tremendous prospects for increasing international cooperation in trade. At the same time, he lamented the tendency of thinking in terms of exclusive trade block. He said such trends would weaken the multilateral system. The prime minister called for strengthening of multilateral rules and institutions under the United Nations.

Talking of his government policy, the prime minister said the first priority is to meet the basic needs of the people. He said India wants to open up its industries to external competition. The government is considering steps to speed up the inflow of foreign investment in priority areas, he added.

On India-Japanese economic cooperation, Mr. Singh said the potential remains largely untapped. He said the country is looking forward to much greater cooperation from Japan in the field of technology.

In his speech, the Japanese prime minister called for strengthening bilateral cooperation even further. He said this is in the interest not only of India and Japan, but of Asia and the world as well. [passage omitted]

The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, also had a meeting with the Japanese prime minister. Subjects of common interest figured in the discussion.

Announces Offer To Help SAARC

OW3004104990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 30 (KYODO)—Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh on Monday [30 April] welcomed Japan's offer of support for an India-led grouping, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said. It was India's first positive response to offers of support from outside the region. India, a leading member of the seven-member organization, was reluctant to accept assistance from countries outside the region.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu made the offer during a second round of summit talks with Singh, telling him that Japan will provide "constructive cooperation" if the SAARC is ready to accept it.

The Indian prime minister hailed Kaifu's initiative and called for Japan's help, particularly in technological areas, officials said. Singh told Kaifu that South Asia needs to strengthen agriculture in order to achieve economic development and that Japan's technological assistance is important to help the region build export industries.

The SAARC was founded in a 1985 meeting in Dhaka among leaders of seven South Asian nations to accelerate economic growth, social progress, and cultural development. It also aims at strengthening collective self-reliance among the members—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The association is headquartered in Kathmandu.

The Japanese and Indian leaders spent 65 minutes in the second round at Singh's office and chiefly discussed bilateral affairs between Japan and India, officials said. They discussed the international situation in the first round of talks on Sunday.

Kaifu told Singh that Japan will provide India with an aid package totaling some 100 billion yen in low interest loans in Japan's 1990 fiscal year, which started on April

1. The amount is larger than the 91.2 billion yen Japan promised in fiscal 1989. Japan, the largest aid donor to India, will unveil details of its aid package to India during a meeting of creditor nations in June, officials said. Singh thanked Japan for the aid offer.

Kaifu assured Singh of Japan's continued emphasis on Asia despite its economic support for reforms in Eastern Europe, officials said. The Japanese prime minister also offered cultural assistance to help India preserve historically important cultural assets and to promote academic exchanges between the two countries. Kaifu also proposed that a total of 500 Indian youths be invited to Japan over the next five years in order to deepen personal exchanges, the officials said.

Singh extended an invitation for Japan's Emperor Akihito to visit India. Kaifu replied that the Japanese Government will study the proposal and that he will convey the invitation to the emperor. Emperor Akihito visited India in December 1985. He was the crown prince at that time.

Kaifu later met separately with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Ramaswamy Venkataraman at the presidential office.

Kaifu is currently in India on a nine-day, five-nation south Asian tour which will also take him to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. He will return home on Sunday [6 May].

Earlier in the day, Kaifu visited the Raj Ghat Monument, where India's father of independence, Mahatma Gandhi, was cremated in 1948. Under the burning sun, the Japanese prime minister laid a wreath and planted two different trees at the site.

Meanwhile, Kaifu's wife Sachiyo paid a visit to a private school for the handicapped in New Delhi. A total of 260 children wearing native saris, greeted her. She also received a gift from the children as she celebrated her 57th birthday on Monday.

Kaifu later attended a luncheon hosted by Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and said Japan will cooperate with India to promote peace and stability in the world.

Venkataraman also spoke at the lunch and expressed appreciation for Japan's economic assistance.

Judge Issues Arrest Warrant for Kashmir Leader

BK2704145590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 27 (AFP)—India has moved to secure the extradition of a prominent Kashmir militant leader from the United States, an official spokesman said here Friday [27 April], as Muslims in the troubled valley celebrated the end of a month of abstinence. A warrant for the arrest of Amanullah Khan, leader of the anti-India Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), was issued by a magistrate here Thursday [26 April] and was to be handed over to the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, the spokesman said.

A Kashmir police officer flew to New Delhi carrying the warrant, issued on the basis of a confessional statement by Shaukat Bakshi, a captured Muslim militant in Kashmir, the spokesman said. He said Mr. Bakshi named Mr. Khan as having instigated the murder of four Indian military personnel and the director of the Kashmir television station. The two men met when Mr. Bakshi crossed over to Pakistan-controlled Kashmir twice last year, the spokesman added.

The U.S. Embassy would be requested to forward the arrest warrant to Washington to set in motion a process for Mr. Khan's extradition to India, he said. Mr. Khan, whose organisation is spearheading a violent separatist drive in Kashmir, is currently on a tour of the United States where he is lobbying for political and financial support for the Kashmir separatist cause.

In New Delhi, there was no immediate comment from either the U.S. Embassy or the federal government.

Washington earlier this month revoked Mr. Khan's visa, acting on a New Delhi request after the JKLF leader made anti-Indian statements widely reported here. Indian Foreign Minister Inder Gujral has announced in Parliament that the government would seek his extradition.

The official disclosure about the issue of the warrant—the first move to have him extradited—came as Kashmir's 4.5 million Muslims held low key celebrations for Id, which marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. Large numbers of Muslims thronged mosques to mark Id as the Kashmir administration ordered a 12-hour curfew break in the state's summer capital of Srinagar, the longest in three weeks. But traditional feasting did not take place, apparently on the direction of Muslim separatist groups and religious leaders who had urged Kashmiris to keep celebrations simple in protest against alleged government atrocities.

Thousands of Muslims in groups visited a graveyard in Srinagar and offered silent prayers for people killed in the current anti-Indian campaign.

The curfew was relaxed for varying periods elsewhere in the Kashmir valley, where more than 400 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the campaign. The indefinite curfew has been in force in Kashmir for the past 3-1/2 months.

The curfew was tightened and a major security crackdown launched after Muslim militants on April 6 kidnapped—and later executed—three hostages in Srinagar. More than 600 people have been arrested in the crackdown.

The official spokesman also announced the arrest of five prominent people, including Aijaz Kar, the son of former Minister Ghulam Rasool Kar and manager of the Small

Scale Industrial Corp., and Ali Mir, an officer at the State Industrial Development Corp. The other three were identified as Saifuddin Shangloo, an employee of the Public Health Department, and the father and brother of a prominent militant wanted by police.

CBI Seeks Extradition From U.S.

BK2704160090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] has requested the External Affairs Ministry to approach the United States for the extradition of Amanullah Khan, the self-styled chief of the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front. According to informed sources, the CBI cannot execute the arrest warrant on Amanullah Khan as he is not an Indian national and is currently in the United States. Therefore, the External Affairs Ministry has been requested to seek his extradition. The request follows the issuance of an arrest warrant by the Jammu Court against Amanullah Khan for inciting the murders of Srinagar Doordarshan [television] Station Director, Mr. Kaul, and four Air Force personnel recently.

Iran

'Appeal' Allegedly To Lead to Hostage Release

NC3004113890 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 30 (AFP)—A Lebanese group agreed to release another U.S. hostage in response to a specific appeal from Iran, the influential TEHRAN TIMES newspaper reported here Monday [30 April]. The Islamic Dawn Organization, a previously unknown underground faction, announced in Beirut late Sunday [29 April] it would release Frank Reed, 57, the head of the Lebanese International School, in the next 48 hours.

The TEHRAN TIMES, quoting an anonymous informed source, said the group had agreed to release Mr. Reed, kidnapped September 9, 1986, after "a great deal of negotiation with the Islamic Republic."

"Iran had proposed to the Moslem Lebanese group to free a second hostage unconditionally and out of humanitarian and Islamic considerations to further demonstrate their goodwill to end the hostage crisis," the paper said.

The TEHRAN TIMES, close to the government of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, last Monday [23 April] urged the kidnappers to free another captive after the release of U.S. hostage Robert Polhill the day before. A second unconditional release would test Washington's goodwill in its attitude toward Iran, according to the paper.

But the United States stressed that an improvement in U.S.-Iranian ties would have to await Iranian moves to liberate all of the seven American citizens reported to be still in captivity in Lebanon.

Regional analysts have said Iran is anxious to rid itself of the hostage stigma in order to break out of its international isolation and attract foreign backing for an economic recovery program. Sixteen Westerners are currently believed held in Lebanon, many of whom are said to be in the hands of pro-Iranian factions.

In Beirut meanwhile journalists converged on the seaside Summerland Hotel ahead of Mr. Reed's expected release. The hotel complex has on several occasions been used as a drop-off point for Western hostages in Lebanon, including Mr. Polhill, who was turned over to Syrian intelligence officials before travelling overland to Damascus.

Envoy Says Hostage To Be Freed in 'Few Hours'

LD3004132190 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus, April 30, IRNA—American Frank Reed is to be released in the next few hours, Iranian ambassador in Syria Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari told IRNA today.

Reed, who was principal of an international school in Lebanon, went missing in West Beirut in September 1986. He has a Syrian wife and three children.

Commentary Sees 'Slower Hostage Crisis Resolution

LD3004131290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] An unknown Lebanese organization called Islamic Dawn [Fajr-e Eslam] announced yesterday that it would release a U.S. hostage, called Frank Reed, within the next 48 hours.

Frank Reed, who has been in detention [bazdasht] for about four years, was arrested [dastgir] in West Beirut in 1986. When this U.S. hostage was arrested, an organization called Arab Revolutionary Cells [Haste-haye Enqelabi-ye Arab], under the command of 'Omar Mukhtar, claimed responsibility for it. On the same day an anonymous person telephoned to claim responsibility on behalf of the Islamic Jihad organization. But the Islamic Jihad organization promptly rejected that claim, stating that whoever made the claim should present a photograph of the hostage. After that there was no mention of that U.S. hostage in any of the statements made by the Lebanese organizations and his fate was shrouded in mystery.

Yesterday's statement by the Islamic Dawn Organization, which included a photograph of U.S. hostage Frank Reed, is proof of that organization's claim, by Lebanese hostage-taking standards.

Since the Islamic Dawn Organization is unknown, there is plenty of speculation about its identity. Western circles have claimed that the organization is a branch of

an Islamic organization with a similar title, which surfaced in Iraq in 1986, that is four years ago.

The extremely short statement by the Islamic Dawn Organization, which is only one-and-a-half lines long, affirms that U.S. hostage, Frank Reed will be freed, and that he will take with him a letter for the U.S. president. In response to the news, U.S. President George Bush said: The release of this hostage is good news, but I am not going to say anything about it.

In any case, if the Islamic Dawn Organization fulfills its promise, Frank Reed, would be the second U.S. hostage released this month. The Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine has already freed one of its three U.S. hostages, Robert Polhill. Although political circles interpreted the release of that hostage as an effort by that organization to show its good will to end the hostage crisis, the other side did not make a positive move.

One of the demands of the hostage-taking Islamic groups in Lebanon entails the release of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners by the Zionist regime. Considering the high degree of influence it enjoys over Israel, the U.S. government can easily bring about the release of all of them. The U.S. government, or some European governments facing the hostage problem, could also force the Lebanese Phalangists to release their four Iranian hostages. Of course, the Westerners claim that the Iranian hostages in Lebanon have been killed. But, according to new reports heard in the region, it is confirmed that at least three are still alive.

Despite all that, unfortunately, the U.S. government and those European governments involved in the hostage crisis not only have not taken a step to end the period of imprisonment and torture suffered by hundreds of Arab and Iranian Muslims, but also, through their political and propaganda stands, they have complicated the situation further.

As an example one could name the recent approval by the U.S. House of Representatives recognizing Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. More than anything else this shows that the West attaches no value to the lives of its citizens, and that if it raises a hue and cry it is merely to take propaganda advantage of the situation and smear the Muslim and revolutionary groups, while this has prolonged the hostage crisis.

It seems that, considering Washington's stand regarding the new developments and the possibility of the release of another U.S. hostage, the solving of the hostage crisis is likely to make much slower progress than previously expected.

Hezbollah Denies Talks With Iran on Hostages

LD3004165990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] The Revolutionary Movement of Hezbollah of Lebanon today issued a statement in Beirut denying rumors about a Hezbollah delegation and a team from the Islamic Republic of Iran having held talks about foreign hostages during their meeting in Damascus.

The Central News Unit reports that the statement says: In meetings held between the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation and the Revolutionary Movement of Hezbollah in Damascus, the two sides talked about the political situation in Lebanon and about the dangerous consequences of the migration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

Press Praises Bush, Mitterrand Ramadan Messages

NC3004125890 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 30 (AFP)—The Iranian press on Monday [30 April] praised U.S. President George Bush and his French counterpart Francois Mitterrand for their good wishes extended to Moslems during recent celebrations marking the end of the Ramadan fast.

"It is good news that two prominent world statesmen thought it necessary to demonstrate to Moslems living in their countries that they are acknowledged as a religious minority," the daily Kayhan International said.

The paper described the messages of good wishes by Mr. Bush and Mr. Mitterrand as "commendable" gestures.

"The truth is that this change of attitude towards the Moslem minorities has taken place in many countries after the culmination of the Islamic revolution in Iran," said the English-language paper, which reflects hardline positions in government circles here.

It said the greatest achievement of the 1979 revolution was to make Moslems worldwide "realize that they are not what the West and the East wanted them to be: inferior to the followers of other religions or doctrines. Or to put it in mild words: second-class citizens."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, another leading daily close to Islamic hardliners said: "This could be a point of departure for a new phase of development and if the messages are signs of the West's realism, they should be praised." But the paper warned that messages by the two presidents could also represent simply "another side of their satanic policy".

MKO Attack on Velayati in New York Foiled

LD2704164290 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 27, IRNA—Two MKO [Monafeqin Khalq Organisation] members attempted to attack Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati as he entered the press hall of the United Nations Headquarters here Friday [27 April]. The assailants were arrested and taken away by security officers before they could harm the foreign minister.

Velayati's press conference will be held with an hour delay at the U.N. press hall.

Foreign Minister Velayati is currently here to take part in the special meeting of the General Assembly.

Perez de Cuellar Regrets Attack

LD2704212290 Tehran IRNA in English 2035 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 27, IRNA—The UN secretary general expressed regret over an attempt by Iranian counterrevolutionaries to hurt Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velyati.

Two members of the outlawed Mujahidin-e Khalq Organisation [MKO] tried to attack Velayati as he entered the press hall here for an unscheduled news conference. Velayati is here for the General Assembly meeting. One of the assailants threw an egg at Velayati but it hit another member of the Iranian delegation. Another held a bag filled with yellow material which he could not use as both of them were immediately arrested by security guards.

The secretary general, in a contact with the Iranian foreign minister expressed his regret over the incident, according to Perez de Cuellar's spokesman Francoise Guilliani.

Also the UN Protocol Chief 'Ali Taymour attended the residence of the Iranian foreign minister and apologised on behalf of the secretary general. He promised that the UN would take necessary measures to prevent repetition of such events in the future.

Iran's UN mission strongly protested to the UN officials for allowing terrorist agents enter such an important assembly. The protocol officials at the United Nations were reminded that such incidents would damage the credit of the international body.

Despite the regretful incident, Foreign Minister Velayati remained quite cool and attended the news conference shortly after and answered all questions posed to him by foreign reporters.

A few years ago a similar incident occurred to Velayati at the General Assembly as an MKO member attacked him at the rostrum and tore up some pages of his written speech, but he continued his speech without losing his nerves.

The UN spokesman told reporters that a third suspect had been detained at the third floor of the United Nations building but that investigations were underway to find out the incentive behind the attack by the "unknown" assailants.

Guilliani said they had still no information about the nationality of the three men and that how they had entered the United Nations. He said however that the UN's security chief had resigned last week because his plans had been opposed by the UN officials. He said today's incident could further aggravate the issue.

After the UN Human rights investigator Reynaldo Galindo Pohl issued his Iran report earlier this year, which exposed part of the terrorist activities of the MKO, it was expected that members of the organisation would resort to such desperate attempts.

The assassination last week of Kazem Rajavi, a high ranking member of the Mujahidien in Europe who fell victim to the MKO's inter-organisational purges, is regarded a factor in escalation of such measures.

Velayati Talks with UN Secretary General

LD2704140590 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar here Thursday [26 April]. During the meeting Perez de Cuellar stressed that the United Nations did not want to conduct another round of fruitless talks between Iran and Iraq. He added that they were preparing grounds for the next round of the talks to bear fruit. He also expressed hope that the stands of the two parties would be contained in the framework of the resolution and added that every issue should be discussed in its own place during the peace talks.

Baghdad constantly impeded the peace talks by setting forth preconditions outside of the framework of the resolution and Perez de Cuellar's plan during previous rounds of talks.

The secretary general stressed that the resolution must be implemented and reiterated the Security Council's strong support for it.

Velayati said that Iraq misinterpreted Perez de Cuellar's plan and instead repeated its illegitimate claims which have already raised concern at the Security Council and the international organisations. These claims, Velayati said, were the main motive behind Iraq's aggression upon Iran and that certainly continuation of this trend will impede the peace process.

He asked the secretary general to present a time-table for the execution of the resolution in order to speed up its accomplishment.

Velayati also called for different approaches to legal and illegal stands as well as those which correspond with the resolution and those which not.

Velayati is currently here to take part in the special meeting of the General Assembly.

Velayati Addresses Journalists in New York

LD2804051190 Tehran IRNA in English 0340 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 28, IRNA—Iran accused the Iraqi leadership of having no interest in

real peace and stability to be restored in the region. One instance of this reluctance on the part of Baghdad, according to the Iranian foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, is his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz's refusal to attend the United Nations for peace talks, contrary to his earlier pledge to do so.

Velayati who was addressing newsmen here, added that the only reason for the failure of the peace talks was Baghdad's obstinacy. He said by raising various preconditions outside the context of the Security Council Resolution 598 and the UN chief's proposals, the Baghdad regime was trying to achieve what it has failed to gain during the war it imposed on Iran for eight years.

But Velayati vowed that Iran would not let Iraq attain its illegitimate objectives in the peace talks as it was deprived of the same during its eight-year old aggression against Islamic Iran.

Velayati however reiterated Tehran's readiness to hold UN-sponsored direct talks with Iraq any time and anywhere. "Just like the 15 previous rounds of talks with Iraq, we are ready to continue our cooperation because the only way to return peace and stability to the region will be through implementation of Resolution 598," he said.

On the hostage issue, he said if the U.S. and Britain used their influence with Israel and the Phalanges in securing freedom for four Iranians abducted in Lebanon as well as for Muslim Lebanese hostages in Israeli jails, it would hopefully be effective in the release of all other hostages. He said Iran possessed evidences that the four Iranians were alive.

In response to a question, Velayati strongly denied that Iran supplied arms to Indian Muslims in the troubled Kashmir area. The Tehran government has on several occasions condemned the Indian massacre of the Muslims in Kashmir and urged the New Delhi government to stop the carnage.

The foreign minister also severely condemned a U.S. Congress vote to recognise Beitful Moqaddas [Jerusalem] as the capital of the Zionist regime. He said the U.S. decision was in violation of the UN resolutions and an insult to one billion world Muslims. It is an unforgivable sin, he remarked.

Elsewhere the foreign minister reiterated that Imam Khomeini's death sentence against the apostate Indian-born British author of 'The Satanic Verses', Salman Rushdie was still holding. He said the fatwa had been issued in accordance with Islamic principles and for the same reason, 47 member states of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) had endorsed it at their Riyadh meet in Saudi Arabia last year.

Referring to Iraq's access to binary chemical weapons and long range missiles, he regretted that the West had failed to even verbally condemn Iraq for its blatant use of banned chemical weapons in the war with Iran and despite witnessing the Halabja chemical holocaust. But he said the Western states appeared to be taking a reasonable stance now against Iraq after realising the threat the Baghdad regime was posing to regional stability.

In March 1987 the Iraqi regime massacred over 5,000 of its own Kurdish citizens in the town of Halabja in northeastern Iraq and maimed thousands of others with chemical weapons donated to Saddam Husayn by the West. The only fault of the innocent children, women and men in Halabja was their welcome of Iranian troops who had captured the town.

Velayati said Iran was quite prepared to defend itself as it had shown during the war years. He also urged the West to pay attention to the Iraqi threat to regional and international peace and security. Velayati said Baghdad's access to strategic arms would be very dangerous for the region.

Implementation of Resolution 598 Stressed

LD2804140290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Following preliminary talks by the UN Secretariat with the Iranian and Iraqi officials, aimed at bringing progress to the final talks on implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, met the UN secretary general. The meeting took place on the fringes of the special session of the UN General Assembly at the end of last week. The two discussed the UN secretary general's proposed agenda, as well as the viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] regarding them. [passage omitted]

This agenda, if both sides come to agree on its contents and implement their viewpoints, can be a basis for a new round of talks. In this connection, the IRI has declared its agreement in principle on the implementation of this agenda. However, a number of points can be raised here which must receive attention from the UN Secretariat prior to the start of the talks. [passage omitted]

The most essential measure that can guarantee part of the new round of talks is the adoption of necessary measures by the UN Secretariat, with the secretary general at its head, to prevent wastage of time and to insure that there will be no attempt to go beyond the contents of the agenda of the talks. Of course, this is a fact of which the UN secretary general is aware. [passage omitted]

In any case, despite the fact that the UN secretary general has explicitly declared that Resolution 598 must be implemented and also despite the fact that the Security Council's support for the implementation of this resolution is serious, it seems that the Iraqi leadership has no inclination toward real peace and restoring stability in the region. The refusal of the Iraqi foreign minister to travel to New York to have talks with the UN

secretary general undoubtedly is a delaying tactic in the way of the progress of the peace talks. This meeting will be held during the next few days in one of the European cities, and with Iraq's acceptance of the agenda for talks, the way will be paved for progress at the talks.

Velayati Returns From New York, Comments on Trip

NC2904071090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Our Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati last night returned to Tehran from New York, where he had gone to participate in the UN General Assembly session and the 20th session of the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers. Speaking to our correspondent on his return, Mr. Velayati commented on the results of these meetings and his talks with the UN secretary general on Resolution 598:

[Begin Velayati recording] The purpose of the trip to New York was to participate in the UN General Assembly's extraordinary session on development and in the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers session. This gave me the opportunity to meet with a number of foreign ministers who had come to New York for the same purpose and discuss bilateral relations. I also met with the UN secretary general and discussed preparations for future talks between Iran and Iraq under his supervision.

It had been decided that the Iraqi foreign minister was to come to New York and he too, like us, was to hold a preliminary meeting with the secretary general. However, in the final days of the session, we were informed that this trip had been canceled.

It was obvious to everyone that the Iraqis are not taking a constructive approach to the secretary general's recent proposal, which has been approved by the Security Council. At a news conference, we announced that we are ready to resume direct talks with Iraq whenever and wherever the UN secretary general wishes. Unfortunately, however, Iraq has not shown a similar readiness. This can be seen in the written response it sent the UN secretary general before this session or in its lack of active participation in the practical steps and preparations for this session.

According to what the secretary general told us during the talks, he will meet with the Iraqi foreign minister in a European country when he visits Europe this week. The secretary general believes that a relatively lengthy session to follow up on the talks on the implementation of Resolution 598 will be resumed in the near future. [end recording]

Vice President Calls for Direct Talks With U.S.

LD2804092990 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 28 Apr 90 p 9

[By Ralph Joseph]

[Text] The Gorvernment of Iran indicated yesterday that it was ready for direct talks with America.

Vice-President Mohajerani, one of the three most powerful men in President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet, said Iran did not receive enough credit for its role in the release of the American hostage Robert Polhill by his Lebanese captors on Sunday [22 April], because Syria had stolen the limelight.

This, he said, was because Syria did not avoid direct discussions with Washington. If Iran did not resume direct discussions with the United States "it will result in missed opportunities".

Tehran is reported to have been holding indirect discussions with Washington through third countries over the past two years, avoiding direct talks because of opposition from hardline clerics.

Mr Mohajerani said direct discussions would be more convenient than indirect. His remarks, carried by the official media, were the most unambiguous plea for direct contact with the US since the 1979 revolution.

The last time direct discussions were held was when Mr. Robert McFarlane, the former US National Security Adviser, and his aide, Lt-Col. Oliver North, visited Tehran secretly in 1986.

Mohajerani's Call for U.S. Talks Causes Outcry

JONHURI-YE ESLAMI Comments

NC2804095790 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 28 (AFP)—A leading Iranian newspaper on Saturday said the whole country was outraged by Vice President 'Ata'olah Mohajerani's call for direct negotiations with the United States. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, close to Islamic hardliners, said Mr. Mohajerani's remarks on Thursday "had such a liberal tone that one would think that he is a product of the recipes preached by the country's liberals."

"His statements have caused a wave of outrage among the population and the country's leaders," the newspaper added, asserting that "this way of thinking has nothing to do with the leaders of the Islamic republic."

The vice president made his call in a commentary published in the 'ETTELA'AT' newspaper.

It was the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution that a top Iranian official had urged direct negotiations with Washington.

Mr. Mohajerani said such contacts could serve Tehran's interests in several areas, including efforts to free Arab prisoners in Israel, the deadlocked Iran-Iraq peace talks and Iran's reconstruction plans.

Iran "never wanted to wall itself in and reject all relations," he said.

His remarks were in response to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement that Washington was ready for direct talks with Iranian authorities if they "reject the notion of terrorism" and help set free hostages in Lebanon.

"Negotiations have always been an obvious affair in the history of men, it does not need to be reasoned out or justified," the vice president said, who is in charge of legal and parliamentary affairs.

"If we don't take all this into account, after some years we will find ourselves in the same situation of stagnation," he warned.

Call for U.S. Talks Causes 'Disgust'

LD2804113390 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—A morning daily Saturday lashed out at an article printed in Thursday issue of an afternoon paper calling for direct talks with the United States. In an editorial titled "Deviation", 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' noted that the article "has stirred a feeling of disgust among the people and the officials." The daily added that the writer of the article had welcomed recent proposal by the U.S. foreign secretary James Baker for holding direct talks with Iran and had advised "the opportunity should not be missed".

The writer had also reasoned that direct talks with the United States would entail advantages such as release of Iranian assets and spare parts, freedom of Iranian and Lebanese hostages, and provision of an opportunity for Iran to revitalize its industry and economy.

"What should be said to a wishful person such as this writer?" asked the article, quoting a statement by the late imam saying that the United States had deceived the Soviet Union. This time, it added, one could say that Baker has deceived the writer.

The late imam had emphatically held on to the unalterable stance vis-a-vis the United States that "as long as the United States does not come to its senses Iran will have no relation with it", wrote the editorial. It stressed that it is mere simplemindedness to expect the United States to come to its senses—a government which has initiated state terrorism, blackmailed Muslims by kidnapping them, and impudently announced it would give no concession in connection with the hostages. It argued whether dignity of a nation who has bravely stood against the 'Great Satan' should be brought under question at an international level?

The article concluded by expressing hope that the writer of the article has carefully followed and realized graveness of his mistake by studying the statements made by the leader and by president at 'Id al-Fitr ceremonies on Friday [27 April].

Students To Protest Article

LD2804193990 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—The Islamic Association of Tehran University Students has called for a gathering at the university's mosque on Sunday in protest at an article published by the daily 'ETTELA'AT' Thursday calling for direct talks with Washington.

In a statement released here Saturday, the association termed the contents of the article as "deviated thoughts and ideas aimed at hollowing the Islamic revolution and system."

The statement also said the article written by Vice President 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani had evaluated direct talks with Washington as being in the interest of the Islamic revolution and system.

The association warned that it will not allow any body to trifle with the causes of the Islamic revolution.

The morning daily 'JOMHURI-E ESLAMI' Saturday [28 April] also attacked Mohajerani's article noting "it has provoked a feeling of disgust among the people and the officials."

Mohtashemi Denounces Call

NC2904172390 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 29 (AFP)—A leading Iranian hardliner has denounced a recent call by Iran's vice president for direct talks with the United States, describing it as a "scourge."

Former Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said in a commentary published Sunday [29 April] by the newspaper KAYHAN that the proposal by Vice President 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani was a "mistake that will never be forgiven by Ayatollah Khomeyni."

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, who spearheaded Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979, died last June a bitter adversary of the United States.

Mr. Mohajerani's suggestion, according to Mr. Mohtashemi, was part of "a current that has penetrated the body of the Islamic regime like a scourge."

"The United States must know that Imam Khomeyni and the Islamic revolution made Iran a nightmare of death for America and its return to Iran would be tantamount to its destruction."

Mr. Mohajerani, in the first such move since the fall of the U.S.-backed shah in 1979, said in an article last Thursday that "negotiations have always been an obvious affair in the history of men."

Talks with the United States, with whom Iran has had no diplomatic ties since 1980, could serve Iranian efforts to secure the release of Arab prisoners in Israel as well as in

deadlocked Iran-Iraq peace talks and economic reconstruction, according to the vice president.

His proposal has also been denounced by the newspaper JOMHURI-E ESLAMI, close to the hardliners, and the Islamic Association of Tehran University Students.

President's Office Dismisses 'Personal View'

NC3004092990 Paris AFP in English 0726 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 30 (AFP)—Iranian Vice President 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani was expressing a "personal" view when he made a controversial call for direct talks with the United States, the president's office said here.

Mr. Mohajerani's statement "reflected his personal point of view," according to an official at President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's office quoted by the Iranian news agency.

Mr. Mohajerani, in the first such move since the fall of the U.S.-backed shah in 1979, said in an article last Thursday [26 April] that "negotiations have always been an obvious affair in the history of men." Talks with the United States, with whom Iran has had no diplomatic ties since 1980, could serve Iranian efforts to secure the release of Arab prisoners in Israel as well as in deadlocked Iran-Iraq peace talks and economic reconstruction, according to the vice president.

His proposal has been denounced by former interior minister and prominent hardliner 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI and the Islamic Association of Tehran University Students.

Students Condemn Article

LD2904173390 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—A group of college students held a gathering at Tehran University Sunday [29 April] to protest what they described as "calls by internal simple-minded people for direct talks with the United States." The students were openly protesting an article written by Vice President for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani in which he proposed direct talks with Washington.

Mohajerani's article, which appeared in the Thursday's [26 April issue of the daily ETTELA'AT has provoked a series of protests. In his article, described by an official at the president's office as his personal views, Mohajerani suggested that Iran accept a U.S. proposal for normalization of relations reasoning that Iran had such a potential enemy as Iraq and its assets were still frozen in America.

The protestors also rallied through the campus chanting slogans such as "talks with the United States is a sign of slavery", "Hezbollah will not make a compromise" and "Fighting the United States is the way to our freedom". Washington's proposal for rapprochement with the Islamic Republic was first made by Secretary of State James Baker nearly a month ago when Iran mediated the release of an American hostage held in Lebanon. The proposal was however rejected by Iran.

Without mentioning Mohajerani by name, the students strongly criticized ETTELA'AT for publishing the article.

A resolution read at the end of the protest rally said "it is a pity to see some persons proposing direct talks with the United States just 11 months after Imam Khomeyni's demise and when families of those martyred in the Persian Gulf are still looking forwards to their loved ones and the painful memory of the martyrdom of 400 pilgrims (in Mecca) is still alive."

"We will not tolerate any attack on the the holy causes of the Islamic revolution protected by the blood of the dearest children of this land," the resolution said. The students also vowed to show reaction to even the slightest move against Islamic principles and causes.

Commentary Refutes U.S. Calls for Direct Talks

NC2904204690 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Station political commentary]

[Text] Ever since Iranian-U.S. relations have settled into a state in which they are fully ruptured because of the hostile U.S. stands toward the Islamic revolution and toward all Islamic causes, successive U.S. Administrations have let no opportunity or occasion pass without expressing willingness to negotiate with the Islamic Republic or to normalize relations with it.

These days, the Bush administration did not let the opportunity of talk about releasing Western hostages in Lebanon go by, and there is increasing talk about Iranian-U.S. relations. U.S. Secretary of States James Baker declared the U.S. Administration's readiness to hold direct talks with Iran.

The U.S. secretary of state's statement has uncovered the depth of U.S. policy toward the Islamic Republic and reveals the increasingly important role played by Islamic Iran. This role is something about which these U.S. Administrations can do nothing except to recognize it and dream of direct negotiations or normal relations. However, time after time these administrations were met with a firm stand and an appropriate answer that quickly awakened the United States from its daydreams.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly announced through its senior officials that the file of the Iranian-U.S. relationship will remain closed as long as there is no change in the U.S. position and as long as Washington continues its hostile and instigative role against the Islamic Republic in particular and against basic Islamic causes in general. The U.S. policy is basically founded on antagonism toward Islam and the Muslims, confrontation of

any Islamic renaissance in the Islamic region, and the application of the logic of might and arrogance as part of a mechanism generated by the consistent U.S. belief that America must be the number one power in the world and that it must continue its policy of hegemony, domination, and interference in the internal affairs of other nations. Such a policy is met with the firm rejection dictated by Islam and required by the doctrine of standing up to aggression, confronting arrogance, and lifting injustice from the Muslims.

The U.S. successive stands against the intifadah of the Palestinian Muslim people and their inalienable and legitimate rights, the U.S. regional role of encouraging the Iraqi regime to evade the implementation of UN Resolution 598 and of providing it with a political and economic cover in order to stall in implementing this resolution, and dozens of other U.S. stands prove that Washington does not want to give up the policy of the wolf versus the lamb. Such a policy will be of no avail to the Muslims, and the Islamic Republic will gain no benefit from it. Therefore, calls for direct negotiations and demands for indirect negotiations will not find open ears in Islamic Iran, and this is the firm policy founded by the late imam and followed by leader Khamene'i and the entire nation behind him.

President, Khamene'i Make 'Id Al-Fitr Speeches

LD2704162590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, as you were informed at the beginning of the bulletin, on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr civilian and military officials of the country were received by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, in Imam Khomeyni Hoseyniyyeh. In this meeting, at first Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, expressed his felicitations on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. Then His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, made a detailed speech. We bring this hour's news bulletin on the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran to an end by broadcasting the full details of this meeting. God be with you:

[Begin recording] [crowd chants slogans in praise of Khamene'i, including: Long last the memory of Imam Khomeyni, Long live our leader Khamene'i.]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful; praise be to God, the Lord of the world, and salutations to the prophet of God and his progeny. I express felicitations on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr on behalf of the present esteemed audience and the entire Islamic ummah to his holiness the lord of the age, may God hasten his noble advent, and to the esteemed leader. This is a very dear and great day when the Islamic ummah after one month of worship and the cleansing of their souls can now start a new life as the result of the self-rectification which they were engaged in during the holy month of Ramadan.

The negative and sad point for us is the loss of his eminence the imam of the ummah, that great personality to whose wise struggles, self-sacrifice and leadership the whole Islamic world is indebted. Fortunately, with the presence of his qualified, jurisprudent, struggling disciple who was familiar with the thoughts and aspirations of the imam to some extent this loss is compensated for. Nevertheless, this loss cannot be so easily forgotten. Today in the sermons of the 'Id prayers from the mouth of this qualified disciple of the imam, our dear leader, we received the direction for our future move. Truly what we always received from the lofty thoughts of our imam, today we received from the eloquent and penetrating remarks of our dear leader and our path was made clear to us [slogans and chants of God is great].

Stressing the need for self-rectification and self-refinement in the first instance, and paying attention to the most important issue of the Islamic world, namely the issue of Palestine and Jerusalem in his second sermon—and all the signs show that the most important issue facing the Islamic world this year and in future years will be the issue of Palestine, and right now we are witnessing the start of a malevolent onslaught by the Eastern and Western arrogance [sentence as heard]. The insolence of world arrogance due to the indifference and weakness of Islamic and Arab governments has reached such a point that they carried out what they did not dare do during the past fifty years. In the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives they approved a resolution with a decisive majority declaring Jerusalem as the capital of the evil and usurping Israeli government. This is something which they did not even dare put into words, and even the insolent U.S. Government did not dare support that issue and expressed its opposition. However, it is clear that the issue has deep roots because this was approved in that manner in both houses of the U.S. Congress. This is due to the weakness of the government leaders of the Islamic world. This is not the case with the Islamic nations and ummah. The Islamic ummah, those of whom who were allowed to show their support for us, on Jerusalem Day they demonstrated throughout the world that they too regard the issue of Palestine as the primary issue.

As our illustrious leader said, our path is the path of the people and the people should be allowed to place the great power of the Islamic world upon the stage. The government leaders can express their demands in the shelter of these people and remove the weakness with which they are afflicted. World arrogance also is only afraid of the people. We hope that this line which was presented today will be at the head of the agenda for our next move. Here on behalf of the entire Islamic ummah and our own nation I wish to express my thanks to the esteemed leader for raising this issue on the first day after the holy month and the start of our new Islamic move. We hope that the souls of the martyrs will also support us on this path.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. In return I congratulate you dear brothers, competent and faithful officials, the Iranian nation and all Muslim nations for this great and auspicious feast. [passage omitted]

The Iranian people, who have risen for God and have taken steps on God's path, must worship and rely on God so that, God willing, they can reach their final destination with God's help.

The world of materialism, the world which does not know the first thing about spiritualism—of course I refer to the powers ruling over that world, there are many who are honest and sincere among the masses—cannot imagine that a system could evolve on the basis of spiritualism and negate all prevalent criteria of materialist powers. The Islamic Republic system is the biggest factor upsetting the world's governments. The biggest reason is that the presence of this system negates the materialist conventions prevailing over most international relations and relations between powers and nation. [passage omitted]

In an Islamic system the people have the power to choose and decide in the true sense of the word, not in a deceptive way; not like false, nominal, and token democracies, which are full of pretense and falsehood. [passage omitted]

Today, it is said in the world that the day of the nations has come. The reason is that in various parts of the world some nations have risen against the systems which have been forcibly imposed on them and have forced them to either completely stand aside, or mend their ways.

I say that the era of the nations did not start today, the true power and resolve of the nations materialized when our great, brave and admirable nation rose, not only against a regime but also against an international alliance of the eastern and western superpowers and other powers, created the Islamic system, and preserved it despite superpowers and other powers. That is the meaning of national resolve and power. The others learned it from the Iranian nation. [passage omitted]

Today you can see that what occurred in Iran is gradually being repeated in other parts of the world. That is why our great imam emphatically said: America cannot do a damned thing against the Iranian nation. And we say too say that it is the faith and unity of the Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic authorities which prevents the enemy from defeating this nation.

The secret of the matter is people's presence, their decisiveness and their unity. Those have made the Iranian nation victorious over its enemies. I thank God Almighty that, so far, we have not faced defeat even in a single scene. It was rather the enemies who faced defeat. Any way they entered, they were defeated. They engaged themselves in military war, they were defeated. They were not able to force the Iranian nation and the system to retreat. Is that not defeat? When all nations join hands and are not able to change a nation's position from where it stands, that means defeat. In political grounds they were defeated. They were also defeated in economic grounds and they will be further defeated.

People are behind the government and the officials and the capable managers of the country. They are indeed God's favor. I remember many times I have mentioned to friends that I thank God from the bottom of my heart. People should appreciate, which they do. They should cooperate with officials whom they support.

Undoubtedly the economic blockade and various U.S. and U.S supporters' malice in economic issues will be unable to do much and all existing problems will be resolved by the able and competent hands of devoted officials who have the people behind them. There is no doubt about that.

Our enemies abroad know the bravery of the Iranian nation. They can see it. Even those who are not clever but sluggish and slow-moving and do not realize your power through the normal process of events, they are forced to realize in such occasions as Jerusalem Days.

These busy bodies, these political dregs, these fugitives, these castaways and political wastes of this nation who are clutching to their masters here and there in the world, are asking each other what is happening in Iran? What is new in Iran? What is new in Iran is Jerusalem Day. What is new in Iran is the 11 February, the day Islamic revolution of Iran took place. What is new in Iran is people's unity and resistance against any enemy plot. They should not pin hope on existance of differences and factionalism among the officials of the country. Since the outset of the revolution they made same contradictory, unfounded, and ridiculous analysis.

If one collects the analysis made by same political circles, those who run the radios and guide governments, about the officials of the Islamic Republic, one will become confident that either they are very stupid or they are pretending to be stupid or God has created them so. Every day a different judgment on personalities. The same person, one day is an extremist, one day is a moderate, one day he compromises [sazeshkar], one day is a fanatic, one day is popular, one day he becomes unpopular. Two characters, in their opinion, are friends one day, another day they are in opposition. They do not understand spiritual and divine relationships of the Islamic system. They do not comprehend. Thank God that they do not understand. [Koranic verse in Arabic omitted] God has taken away the light from their hearts and their minds. God has taken away atheir judgments.

What differences? What factionalism? Of course in a lively society where people are free, all can express their opinion, people are close to the officials, it is possible for the highest rank of the country's officials to have daily and normal contacts with the most ordinary people, in such a society it is normal and natural that different political and economic opinions exist. But differing opinions is one thing, and what you want, what you wish,

what you propagate about contradictoray factionalism, is something else. The latter, thank God, does not exist and will never exist.

The Islamic society cannot contain two factions in itself and among the believers and those who are devoted to those goals, who would seek to uproot each other and destroy each other. That is not possible unless someone does not believe in this cause.

This same unity in words, same path, same efforts should be continued by our nation, God willing. The world needs you and your positions. This same great issue of Palestine, these same issues regarding meek and oppressed Muslims in various parts of the world, Muslims who are strangers in their own homelands, this great Islamic movement which can be seen almost all over the Islamic world, from Asia to Europe to Africa Muslims identify themselves with Islam and move and express their opinion and show their unity and frighten their enemy, they all need your steadfastness, your resistance, your unity and your strong will. We beseech God Almighty for the dear Iranian nation's success and victory. Help them continue their path and let our dear imam's soul be happy about the behavior of the nation and the officials and let the holy heart of the Vali-e Amr [guardian of the cause] be happy with our deeds. May God's peace and mercy extend to you all.

Gulf Air, Naval Maneuvers Planned for May

LD2804095890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 28 Apr 90

[From the "Holy Defense" program]

[Text] In order to achieve greater military and defense preparedness and bring about more extensive coordination among the armed forces, major naval and air maneuvers code-named the Sahand maneuvers will be held in the waters of the Persian Gulf during the second half of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May], with the participation of units from the Naval and the Air Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, and a unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Naval Forces.

God willing, we will provide you with more detailed reports about the maneuvers while they are in progress.

*RESALAT Report on 10 Apr Majles Session

90AS0034A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Department:

Yesterday morning the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, the representatives of the Jewish minority, Birjand, Mashhad, and Arak spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the memos from the representatives to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda. During this session the credentials of Messrs. Mohtashemi and Musavi-Kermani of the Tehran electoral district were approved.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers and the detailed proceedings, the memos from the representatives to the nation's executive officials, and the report on the public session.

Manuchehr Nikruz, Representative of the Jewish Minority

Mr. Manuchehr Kalimi Nikruz, the representative of Iran's Jewish minority, was the first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session. He began with greetings to the pure soul of his holiness the imam (may his grave be sanctified) and with regards to the leader of the Muslims.

He said: I am most pleased on this occasion, as the Majles representative of the Jewish people of Iran, to congratulate my dear fellow Jews on the arrival of the Passover, recalling the unifying uprising of the Prophet Moses, the Interlocutor of God, against the Pharaoh's polytheism and aggression, and the liberation of the tormented and oppressed Jews from Pharaonic captivity and imperialism.

He added: For the monotheists of the world and those who fight for the commands of God on the path of truth and justice, the uprising by His Holiness Moses (peace be upon him) is a prominent illustration of the will of God to eliminate oppression and strengthen justice and human nobility. Every year in their homes with family and friends the Jews celebrate the Passover, the holiday of freedom and the uprising of His Holiness Moses (peace be upon him) with belief in the unity of the almighty Truth. Brave compatriots fought gloriously defending the freedom and honor of the nation of Iran on the battlefield against the aggressors and enemies of the glorious revolution. Throughout this period our youth fought tirelessly and hard for the independence and freedom of our dear nation Iran and they raised the banner and flag of honor over the country. This year the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not with us, and his great soul has joined with the divine presence, but his luminous thoughts, which manifest the words of the prophets, are still before the government's respected officials and the noble people of Iran. His pure thoughts and radiant religious and human values are constant.

Mr. Nikruz added: The Jews of Iran, along with the other noble compatriots, have given importance to laying the foundation of a prosperous and free nation, and God willing, with the implementation of the Five-Year Plan, which is the hope of all the people, we will be victorious with the nation's cultural and economic expansion. We must all cooperate to the utmost and give special attention to the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas. This plan has been compiled and approved with great effort and the active participation of thousands of expert

specialists. Special attention has been given to its fundamental planning, and it includes the views of the Majles specialist commissions and the respected representatives. The nation's economic future depends on the proper implementation of this plan, and the cooperation of all the nation with the respected government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the implementation of the Five-Year Plan will guarantee the success of this plan. As a member of the Majles Health Commission, I have given special attention to the notes on the Five-Year Plan, especially with regard to increasing hospital beds in the deprived cities and regions and reconstruction of the nation's hospitals, and with regard to the production of medicine, I consider it necessary to direct the attention of officials to the matter of the cooperation of all specialists in the elimination of shortages, and special attention must be given to the matter of environmental protection and the elimination of air pollution.

Mr. Nikruz discussed the matter of the participation of religious minorities in the imposed war. He said: The repulsion of Iraq's aggression against Iran is a luminous page in the history of the recent struggles of the people of Iran. We know that the population of Iran's religious minorities is numerically large compared to the nation's total population [as published], but the presence of these people in the struggles of the Muslim people of Iran and their unwavering allegiance to the great clergyman and the great leader of Iran increased the importance of the Islamic revolution in the eyes of the people of the world, and in the course of establishing the Islamic Republic of Iran, what is written in the Constitution concerning the rights of religious minorities made known to the people of the world the system of Islamic values in the observance of divine and human rights. Without doubt there were those who, to satisfy their own Satanic objectives, portrayed the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a disregard for the rights of religious minorities in Iran. Even within Iran there are narrow-minded and heedless people who see the brotherly life of the people of Iran from their own point of view, and they are not without the desire to stop the progress of the revolution and the nation of Iran by fanning the flames of religious and ethnic discord. However, in all the phases preceding the triumph of the uprising and after the triumph of the revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran, His Holiness the imam's view in this regard was a divine, humane, clear, and precise view. In all of his statements, his interviews with foreign journalists and experts and his messages, he took note of the observance of the rights of religious minorities in Iran, and he emphasized it and turned the tricks of the deceitful back on them, while the religious minorities continue honorably to live among their compatriots.

Continuing his remarks, the Majles representative of the Jews of Iran said: Based on Principle 13 of the Constitution, the Jews of Iran, like other religious minorities, have the right to freedom in the practice of their religious preferences and carry out their religiously lawful affairs, and even now our religious rites on Saturday, on holidays, and on other days of the week are conducted in full peace and security. Concerning the current nature of Jewish social and cultural activities, it can now be said that the Jews of Iran are a part of the nation, and they have the necessary social and political rights, as do our other compatriots. Under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran the Jews are an officially recognized religious minority, and they have their Majles representative to express their political positions. As his holiness the imam said on the occasion of the opening of the Majles in 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981], just as he is in the service of Muslims and works for their welfare, he works for the welfare and comfort of the religious minorities which enjoy special respect in Islam, and basically they serve in one rank with the Muslims for the nation, and in that single rank they have all of the same values and goals. Just as he emphasized, and as the Jews of Iran also believe, the account of the true Jews and those who stand by the unity of God and the divine prophecy of His Holiness Moses the interlocutor of God and his commands and orders is a different account than that of the Zionists. The Jews of Iran have long had their people's societies in Tehran and in the Jewish municipalities, and after the establishment of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran they were organized based on the law of political parties and societies, and their responsibilities include the management of their social and cultural affairs and welfare. The Jews of Iran, ten thousand of whom participated in demonstrations before the revolution and who gave martyrs at the front lines afterwards as well as help with medical aid and heath cadres behind the lines, along with material and cash assistance in various activities, have regularly proven their loyalty to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Just as Mr. Karrubi, the respected Majles speaker, has noted time and again, it is the duty of every individual and the nation to observe the commands of His Holiness the imam, and to act upon them. For this purpose, the Jewish Society of Iran has compiled His Holiness the imam's comments about religious minorities in an anthology which they have published in book form and made available to all on the occasion of the first anniversary of the imam's death.

He added: The Jewish Society of Iran, like other peoples of the nation and honorable people the world over, says that world organizations, and foremost among them the United Nations, must make the utmost effort for the implementation of Resolution 598 and tell Iraq that it must comply with the demand of all justice-loving people of the world and must not delay any longer in the implementation of the resolution. The Iraqis must know that no person and no power can disregard the rights of the Iranian nation. I feel obligated, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Jewish Society of Iran, to thank the respected president of the republic, the respected Majles speaker, the respected chief of the judiciary, and the respected government for their kindness and unstinting effort in always showing the greatest kindness with regard to the demands of the Jewish Society of Iran, especially the respected members of the Cultural Revolution Council, and I especially proclaim my praise and

thanks to the respected minister of education and training and the respected members of the Majles Education and Training Commission, who brought about the conditions necessary for continuing the work of the Jewish educational units and created the necessary facilities in this regard. On the eve of the Passover, all we Jews of Iran are attending all the synagogues, and we pray to Almighty God for a long life for the exalted leader, for the freedom and independence of the dear nation, for greater success each day for the respected officials, and for victory for the noble nation of Iran. We hope that with these ceremonies will come the liberation of all the people who are suffering under imperialist oppression, and we hope the day will come when those who fear God and all those believe in one god will find complete happiness.

Mr. Nikruz ended his talk with the wish for greater solidarity and unity between the Jews of Iran and the rest of the noble and zealous Iranian nation.

Ha'erizadeh, Representative of the People of Birjand

Mr. Ha'erizadeh was the second pre-agenda speaker, who began his talk with praise and greetings to the pure souls of the prophets and the chaste saints of God, the martyrs of Islam, the Islamic revolution, the imposed war, and the martyrs of the crimes of the Saudi family, as well as the late imam of the nation.

He added: The esteemed leader, in his talk this month, gave special emphasis to ethics and Islamic culture, and it is quite appropriate for all the nation's organizations to reexamine their programs with respect to ethics and Islamic culture.

The speaker added: It is observable in the wealthy areas of the major cities, especially Tehran, that a large number of young and adolescent girls do not wear the Islamic veil. Most of these young people and youth were small children at the peak of the splendid revolution and took part in the demonstrations of millions in the arms or on the shoulders of their fathers and mothers. How is it that in many parts of Tehran, for example, we see that the majority is improperly veiled? For human beings, bullying and threats are not constructive to get them to accept an issue. We must rapidly take useful action for the sake of Islamic fairness and provide effective assistance in the establishment of social justice, so that all this improper veiling will decrease significantly. These things are effective, because in the first years of the revolution, most of the same people who did not even believe in veiling took part in most of the demonstrations with the full Islamic veil, especially with the chador.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker said: Why did so many people drive properly in the first years of the revolution, and many more people than today observed the rules of driving and the road, and the number of people shaving their beards and being improperly veiled increases? A number of people began driving more poorly and committing more violations every day. A number of shop keepers sell the people what they need at any price they wish. A great many service and repair people take money from the people at whatever price they wish. They even sell books at whatever price they wish. Some of the hospitals, some doctors, and some engineers take money at whatever rate they wish. A number of people import as much as they wish, truckloads, across the border, of foreign chocolates and gum, pineapples, jams and jellies, foreign Pepsi, various commonplace and luxury foreign clothing, cocoa nuts, every kind of luxury foreign cloth, and in the last few years these people have ruined the nation's domestic producers and farmers. All of this imported trash, entertainment and luxury merchandise has dealt a heavy blow to our producing industries, factories, and farmers. Every day the dealers in luxury goods grow more prosperous. The esteemed leader's emphasis in these few days and his special attention to Islamic culture and ethics were an appropriate and timely warning.

The representative of the people of Birjand discussed the programs of the Voice and Vision. He said: The Voice and Vision could play a most important role in reforming conditions, but it does not. Television itself promotes the trappings of luxury. A great many of the television plays, films, and serials dealing in the themes of religion, love, cultural and social sentiment, and even recreation could be shown in plain buildings with simple furnishings. All of this hand-clapping has taken the place of shouting "God is Great." The radio national anthem "Workers sitting by the side of the road" has replaced the anthems of love such as "Our slogan is no longer that father gave us water, father gave his life, father gave us blood." What has happened to our children's anthem? It used to be "Bravo, what a good thing the imam said, something that deprived the enemy of rest, the imam said the future of Islam is in the land of Iran, as long as our revolution lasts." It has not yet been a year since the death of our dear imam. Play, recreation, amusement, diversions, and entertainment are quite necessary, but this has created a delirious fever for soccer, exercise, and pointless serials. Diversionary and pointless serials are expanding.

The speaker added: Listen even now as the esteemed imam shouts above us from the side of the graves of the martyrs at Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery about these gold diggers. It was in this very month that your esteemed leader laid special emphasis on Islamic ethics and culture. Today one sees a great deal of improper veiling even in front of some of the schools and universities, young boys dressed in luxurious attire and outlandish hairstyles. Muslims must be neat and clean, but there is a difference between being clean and worshipping luxury.

Concerning the subject of cultural and ethical work, the speaker said: The most important work at this point is cultural and ethical planning, force and the whip are only needed for the worst cases and as a last resort for a handful of crude and shameless people, but most people always want morality, and there is no need for killing between you and me with regard to love, kindness, invitations, and culture in matters of overpricing and hoarding.

Concerning bills of legislation, he said: Without shouting and giving speeches and interviews, every kind of necessary bill that the respected government and judiciary consider proper to present as urgent motions to the Majles will certainly be approved decisively by the esteemed representatives. Almost all of the bills submitted by the government and the judiciary have been approved. Everyone knows that the respected Council of Guardians does not permit the Majles to require the government to submit a bill. The respected Council of Guardians has ruled that the Majles cannot require the government to compile a bill, even on necessary matters such as dealing with price gouging and hoarding, or a bill to deal with cultural or ethical matters or even a strict law about bad veiling or ostentatious and luxurious lifestyles. In the view of the Council of Guardians, the Majles cannot require the government to give a reason. For every law the Majles writes, it must assign the financial load beforehand, which itself has been a great obstacle in these recent years for most issues. When the government or the judiciary brings a bill, it is reviewed by experts beforehand. All the experts are in the service of the government and the judiciary. Therefore, in these 10 years the bills of the government and the judiciary have always made progress in their work, and most of the Majles laws have had problems financially or with matters involving expertise.

Salehabadi, Representative of the People of Mashhad

Mr. Salehabadi, representative of the people of Mashhad, the third pre-agenda speaker, discussed the latest legislation by the American Congress officially recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the usurper regime. He said:

In recent days the world has seen evil and criminal legislation from the American Senate officially recognizing Jerusalem, the original home of the Palestinians and the first shrine of the world's Muslims, which has been occupied for years by the Zionists, as the capital of Israel. Once again the United States of America, with its latest measure, has shown its old enmity with Islam and 1 billion Muslims throughout the world, for the Muslims of the world know Jerusalem to be the capital and homeland of the Palestinians, and certainly the necessary reaction in this regard will be shown on International Jerusalem Day, and after that against America's policy of support for usurper and aggressor Israel. I call upon all the revolutionary youth in the occupied territories and other Muslim countries and the united front against Zionism and world imperialism to answer the legislation by the American Senate with a rebellion against American interests, bases, and military, economic, and vital installations and against American policies throughout the world, so that the American people will take note of the policies of that nation's government in support of Israel, headquarters for terrorism and racism, and so they will put this government in its place. The American people must also realize that as long as American support of Israel continues, armed struggle by the Muslims of the world will continue.

The speaker noted that in any society where there is no balance between supply and demand, inflation and shortages will certainly be created. He said: This inflation can be natural and logical, and when unleashed it can be devastating. In our country, because of eight years of the imposed war, a great gulf has opened between supply and demand, and a small number of people, about 10 percent of the society, has abused this situation to accumulate religiously unlawful wealth. It will take years to establish equilibrium between supply and demand, and in the interim, if there is not a serious struggle against those who abuse the public treasury, the pressure of inflation and high prices will be on the backs of the low-income people of society, mostly the wage earners, and in that case now and in the future we will be looking and weeping at elegant palaces of wealth next to pits of poverty, indigence, and wealth in our country.

Mr. Salehabadi also added: If the current situation continues where the government and the judiciary do not seriously control the criminal acts of the hoarders and price gougers, it will create a wider gulf between the rich and the poor. Starting now, serious and revolutionary steps after the example of 'Ali must be taken to solve the problems of inflation, unemployment, and the confiscation of wealth that occurs because of hoarding, price-gouging, and those who abuse the public treasury. In taking these measures, you must fear no one. Procrastination will only harm the nation and the revolution, and a merciless confrontation with the economic terrorists will bring strength and endurance to the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He then made a proposal in this regard to the judicial power. He said: They should begin the struggle by setting prices and setting the etiquette on all domestic and import goods, and they must know that this measure will benefit all the nation's deprived people, the original masters of the revolution. Policies that exempt import goods from the pricing system are certainly erroneous and must be reformed. They hurt the very deprived and oppressed people the Islamic revolution was created to support.

The current Government Penalties Law, enacted by the Expediency Discernment Council, has not been successful to date because of the double standard in implementation and issuance of penalty judgements, because the Ministry of Commerce must carry it through the stages of implementation, and the penalty judgements must be issued by the judiciary. In practice this has proven unsuccessful and there must be some centralization in this area. Otherwise, if the current status of the Government Penalties Law continues, in the future we will see more inflation in the country and more rampant abuses of the public treasury and the rights of the people.

The representative of the people of Mashhad continued his remarks. He said: Another issue I would like to discuss concerns events over the last few months in the Majles and outside the Majles. The first was a bill concerning Principle 49 of the Constitution approved by the Majles representatives, saying that if approved by the

Council of Guardians, wealth derived from hoarding, selling at high prices, and various forms of smuggling may be confiscated, and in this way hoarding and hoarders can be stopped. After the respected chief of the judiciary said that there is no law by which we can fight economic terrorists, the Majles acted on its own. The Council of Guardians used its own legal discretion and rejected what the Majles enacted.

Concluding his remarks, the speaker discussed the recent statements by the chief of the judiciary and the speaker of the Majles. He said: In his own comments, the chief of the judiciary said we have no law with which to deal with economic terrorists. I say to him, however, that the law exists. You execute smugglers under the government's Expediency Discernment Council Law, and in the last few years you have executed those who have warred with the government. Did you get that law from the Majles? The judiciary thus has a free hand, and the judiciary must present a bill for the Majles to approve. In conclusion, I declare my support and that of the people of Mashhad for the warning words of the respected speaker of the Majles and I sincerely thank the respected representatives for approving single-urgency status for the law to combat economic agitators, and I thank our dear people as well for their extensive support of this Majles measure. I want the judiciary to implement this law.

Al-Hoseyni, Representative of the People of Arak

Mr. Al-Hoseyni of the Arak electoral district was the fourth and final pre-agenda speaker. He began his talk by mentioning the arrival of 15 Ramazan [11 March] and congratulating the Muslims of the world and the exalted leader of the revolution on the joyous birth anniversary of the bright star of vice-regents and imams, Emam Hasan Mojtaba (Peace Be upon Him).

With reference to Aid to the Deprived and Oppressed Week, he said: Since fighting poverty and deprivation has always been favored by the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) and its revivalist, his holiness the imam (may God have mercy on him), and the establishment of fairness and justice will always be the slogan of Islam, it is hoped that all the noble people will not neglect their religious and human duty to help the needy, and to help the relevant organizations, above all the Imam's Relief Committee.

Condemning the settlement of new Zionist emigrants in Palestine, the speaker said: We do not support giving the slightest concession to the aggressor, expansionist enemy, and no one has the right to disregard the sacred defense of this great nation and to give concessions in negotiations.

The representative of the people of Arak added: With regard to economics, the leaders of society must end the battle between profits and values in favor of preserving the rule of values. The service sector in the nation's economy must work within the limits of serious pressure for the overall interest of the revolution to benefit the production sector and the fields of work and constructive and useful effort. Huge and oppressive, nonbeneficial incomes for the service sector must not be allowed to ruin the nation's economy. It is vital to implement an effective financial policy to revise the real values of money and to control currency in circulation for the economy. A serious struggle with economic agitators and economic terrorists who have mercilessly targeted the lives of the peoples of society is an irrefutable necessity, and you must deal with them just as harshly as you deal with smugglers so they will not be able to endanger the nation's existence. We must give the necessary vitality and stability to the economy of society by executing economic agitators and give the people some hope.

Continuing, Al-Hoseyni added: I sharply rebuke the respected minister of education and training for the unwise appointment of an individual as general manager of education and training of Central Province, and I demand an immediate reconsideration. It is not in the interest of the government, the revolution, the nation's culture, or the minister himself to appoint an individual with such a record who is notorious in the region. Before selfish desires get in the way and it becomes costly for you, come and reconsider this, even if it hurts you, which it won't, reconsider. Mr. minister of education and training, we are willing to sit and study the records of the general managers of education and training under the former regime to determine whether or not you have appointed people who, according to repeated and reliable reports, engaged in communist activities. You have appointed someone, despite notices from the brothers in intelligence, the university crusade, and other sympathetic people who made efforts and contacted you, reputed by all his associates to have been a communist activist in the university and a close communist collaborator. Intelligence has expressed this in writing, the university crusade has expressed this in writing, and I will read verbatim the statement from the university crusade: "In view of the above's record, throughout his studies at Aburayhan University, before the revolution, during the time of the revolution, and after the revolution up until the great movement of the cultural revolution, he engaged in communist activities. He was active and effective in leftist organizations and an opponent of the cultural revolution, and he took a position against that exalted divine movement." Documentation exists for what was done by his colleagues at the teacher's college at the university and in the Municipality of Tafresh, which is where he lives, and it will be presented to the respected speaker of the Majles.

Continuing, he said: Has our situation reached the point that we must appoint someone as general manager of education and training of the province who opposed the cultural revolution and made the university a bastion of opposition to the sacred Islamic government? Isn't it a shame that without insight we appoint someone as general manager of education and training for the province of whom it is said by a group of the people of

Tafresh that his father was such that he cooperated with the former regime? Of course the same thing was stated repeatedly and expressed in writing concerning his son, both during his studies at the preliminary teacher's college and in the early university years. Now what has been said about the ethical corruption of Mr. general manager of education and training in the Islamic government, who is documented as lacking the most elementary ethical and orthodox competence, is established. It is another matter that the revolution is falling into the hands of outsiders and have not spent a moment in the struggles of the revolution and the war, and has been expressed by the imam. Although I did not wish to speak with you about this Mr. minister, I have spoken a half hour in this very Majles, because I have spoken of this before and much has been said by various people. What we have said and are saying is that you are free to appoint and send to the province a sound, religious, and competent individual from wherever you wish, although we believe (praise God) that there are useful forces right in the province and they should get priority, and we have not had and do not have special sensitivity concerning anyone. However, despite these statements and the statements about the elementary competence of your general manager, and others have said the same things, we saw that your reaction was unconditional defense and a position of denial. I was duty-bound to take this stand just to this extent, and I will raise other issues when necessary in the form of a question. Isn't it an insult to sacred values, saints and pious people, for you to treat them this way? Our educators are sacred and noble and they value honors and distinctions. It must be realized that the children of the revolution, the families of martyrs, and the dear ones working in education, all of whom lived in the province to prevent abuses by foreigners and to make their credentials available to officials, are willing, if necessary, to endure again for the general interest of the revolution, but it is not right for us to ignore the rightful protests and supervision of the people, which can and must go hand in hand with the government, and for us to so discount it that it undermines belief, God forbid, in some officials.

Continuing, the representative of the people of Arak added: I ask the respected president of the republic and the respected Majles speaker to deal with this seriously and immediately. A file of documentation of what I have been saying is being submitted to the respected Majles speaker.

There is a situation now in the province that is disturbing to the governor-general and the district governor, and I do not think any of the representatives except Mr. Heydari, who has declared here that he agrees with this, are happy with this situation. I do not think any of the Friday imams, respected societies, or educators are happy with this, indeed they are severely disturbed.

Report on Public Session

The first item on the agenda for yesterday's Majles session was the matter of the credentials of Messrs. Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani from the Tehran electoral district, and after the withdrawal of objections from protestors, the credentials were approved by the representatives.

Second Agenda Item

The second agenda item was the proposal to amend Paragraph B Note 28 of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] Budget Law, which was presented as a double-urgency motion, and the urgency rating was approved. Likewise, the proposal to amend the law designating the status of disputed lands written to implement Article 56 of the Forests and Pastures Law was presented as a double-urgency motion, and was approved as a single-urgency motion.

Third Agenda Item

The third agenda item was the report from the first council of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission concerning the bill on employment regulations for the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, and the entire bill was approved by the representatives.

In Article One of the bill it says: In view of Article Nine of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education Formation Law, as of the date of the enactment of this law, the fixed or permanent employees of this ministry and its affiliated institutions, with the exception of workers of the Social Security Organization, with regard to employment are subject to the regulations of the National Employment Law.

Final Agenda Item

The final agenda item was the report from the first council of the Rural Agriculture and Development Commission concerning the bill to form the national committee to reduce the effects of natural disasters, all of which was approved by the representatives.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepali Congress Formulates Platform

Resolution Disbands Panchayats

BK2704124890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 27 Apr 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 27 (AFP)—The interim coalition government has disbanded Nepal's network of local councils, or Panchayats, an official said Friday [27 April], completing the dissolution of the kingdom's 30-year-old partyless system.

The decision was taken Thursday at a cabinet meeting and was effective immediately, the chief spokesman for the Nepali Congress party, C.K. Prasai, told a press conference.

"This was a very swift and drastic step taken by the coalition government of the Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front (ULF) as per the wishes of the general public," Mr. Prasai said.

Mr. Prasai, whose party is led by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, was speaking at the close of a three-day policy-making meeting of the congress central committee chaired by Mr. Bhattarai.

The congress issued a 20-point resolution after the meeting including a call for the removal of Nepal's 14 zonal commissioners, or regional administrators, who are appointed by the king and have sweeping powers.

The national Panchayat, of parliament, was dissolved by King Birendra on April 8, but leaders of the new multiparty government had expressed discontent that the local councils were still in place.

The 4,022 village, 33 municipality and 75 district Panchayats formed the lower tiers of Nepal's administrative system and employed at least 280,000 people. Political analysts said that they would all be laid off.

The king announced the dissolution of the Panchayat system—which banned political parties since 1960—after two months of pro-democracy protests and appointed an interim government last week to prepare general elections.

Under a 1980 amendment to the Panchayat act, Nepal's ruling government has the power to dissolve or suspend village, town and district Panchayats and their respective members.

The functions of the local Panchayats would be carried out by government-employed civilians, Mr. Prasai said at the briefing, adding that committees would be set up at the local level on an ad hoc basis.

Local councils had already been informed of Thursday's cabinet decision, Mr. Prasai said, adding that the decision was effective immediately.

The statement issued by the congress central committee called for the abolition of the post of zonal commissioner.

"Under the current changed political context, the posts of zonal commissioners have become obsolete and therefore their posts should be abolished," it said.

A Nepali Congress source said earlier Friday that the government had ordered the country's 14 zonal commissioners to assemble in Kathmandu by Saturday.

The meeting was called to discuss the maintenance of law and order and the running of the administration in Nepal's 14 zones and 75 districts, as well as arrangements for holding general elections, the source said.

Political observers said the congress strategy was part of the coalition government's plan to hold free and fair elections, since the commissioners, who are loyal to the king, could play a decisive role during the polls.

The commissioners are virtually like governors in India's federal states, with control over 75 chief district officers, who are the equivalent of district magistrates, and their region's entire police force.

The 20-point congress statement also included the following demands:

—the formation of a top-level commission to examine assets held by Panchayat leaders and others who have allegedly amassed great wealth under the partyless system.
—stern action against people who used force to suppress the movement for the restoration of democracy in the Himalyan kingdom.
—the total reorganization of all government-managed social organizations and the highly controversial National Sports Council, which has been linked to an underground right-wing group accused of terrorizing the capital.
—the reduction of costs of essential goods such as fertilizer, sugar, kerosene, skimmed milk and electricity.
—the introduction of measures to control inflation.
—launching a nationwide reforestation program.
—lowering interest rates on loans issued by the Agriculture Development Bank of Nepal to encourage peasants.
—reforming and improving prison conditions.
—the return of all property seized from political activists since 1960 and drop legal cases filed against them.

The party resolution also said that the 13-month stalemate over trade and transit treaties with neighboring India had caused landlocked Nepal great economic difficulties.

In order to provide relief to the Nepalese, it suggested that the coalition government ask New Delhi to maintain the pre-March 1989 arrangement until formal trade and transit treaties can be signed, it said.

After the treaties lapsed last year, a virtual blockade of Nepal's frontier trade points by India resulted in extreme hardship for the Nepalese, who saw petrol rationed, power cuts, and shortages of essential commodities.

Notes Special Ties With India

BK2704161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The Nepali Congress has emphasized the stand for close friendly relations with all its immediate neighbors. Briefing newsmen at the end of three-day meeting of the central working committee of the party in Kathmandu this evening, a party spokesman asserted that the special relationship of Nepal with India geographically, culturally, economically, and traditionally cannot be minimized. He said Nepal is a little nearer to India and the Indian people. Replying to a question, the

spokesman said that the talks are to begin soon to resolve the impasse in trade and transit between the two countries. He said the foreign policy of the Nepali Congress stands for implementation of the UN Charter, nonalignment, regional cooperation with special emphasis on SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], and close relations with friendly countries, especially with its immediate neighbors.

In its political resolution, the party said the constitutional monarchy under parliamentary democracy has been and will be the official policy of the Nepali Congress.

Five Top Officials Removed in Government Reshuffle

BK2904142090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 29 (AFP)—Nepal's coalition government removed five top civil servants Sunday [29 April] in a reshuffling and streamlining of the administration, a highly placed source said.

Those dismissed were chief cabinet secretary Lok Bahadur Shretha, home secretary Bhakta Bahadur Koirala, forest secretary Birendra Nath Khunjali, local development secretary Dharma Bahadur Thapa and communications secretary Bishnu Pratap Shah, the source said.

The coalition of the pro-democratic Nepal Congress and the United Left Front headed by [word indistinct] Prasad Bhattarai made the decision unanimously.

The officials were believed to have been notified of their dismissal Sunday, the source said.

In addition, a move also was being made to abolish zonal commissioners posts in 14 zones covering 75 administrative districts across the country.

They would be replaced with the respective joint commissioners until a final redrafting of the constitution could be finished, the source said.

The zonal commissioners were appointed by King Birendra under the Ministry of Home. The posts were created in 1961 to safeguard the partyless panchayat system in the districts outside the Nepalese capital.

The new government was installed earlier this month after seven weeks of mass public demonstrations demanding a multi-party democratic system.

The king has given Mr. Bhattarai permission to make changes in the central government administration and to abolish the zonal commissioners.

The measures were expected to help make the administration more efficient and to help check corruption, political observers said.

Meanwhile, a curfew from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. local time was reestablshed for the seventh day in the capital, and again in the outlying districts.

Political observers here said that although the night-long curfew has caused difficulties for foreign tourists and diplomats, the general public has appreciated it, believing it to have helped maintain law and order.

Government Considers Limiting King's Role

BK2904094290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The Nepal Government is seriously considering promulgation of an interim constitution limiting the king's role to that of a mere figurehead. In an interview with UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] in Kathmandu today, the prime minister, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, said this is the only way to reassure the people immediately that all administrative powers in the country rested with the new multiparty government, and the king will not interfere in its day-to-day functioning.

Panchayat Supporters Burn Government Offices

BK3004090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] In Nepal, offices of the chief development officers and the panchayat [town council] building at Pokhara were completely gutted in a fire last night. The Nepalese home minister, Mr. Y.P. Upadhyaya, told our Kathmandu correspondent that miscreants who set the buildings on fire did not allow the fire tenders to extinguish the fire. Mr. Upadhyaya said supporters of the panchayat system were behind the incident.

Our correspondent adds that this is the first major incident of this kind reported from outside Kathmandu Valley after the restoration of multiparty system.

Human Rights Leader Appeals for General Amnesty

BK2904120690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 29 apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 29 (AFP)—A Nepalese human rights leader called on the government Sunday [29 April] to grant an unconditional general amnesty for all those jailed or exiled for their political beliefs.

The call came in a statement from Rishikesh Shah, chairman of the Human Rights Organisation of Nepal (HURON), which says about 148 people would benefit from such an amnesty.

Independent Opinion Forum (IOF) chairman Bharat Jangam meanwhile demanded that political and social workers from Bhaktapur, suburban Kathmandu, be given back the jobs they lost under the former government.

Mr. Jangam in a statement welcomed the release of farm leaders Narayan Man Bijukshey, Govinda Duwal, Asha

Kaji Basukala and others following the success of the recent movement for democracy.

The Marxists were arrested 18 months ago on charges of pre-meditated, political murder.

An opposition-led coalition government was formed early this month after a two-month old campaign for democracy forced Nepal's King Birendra into lifting a 30-year-ban on political parties.

Communist Coalition Demands Further Changes

BK2904090090 Hong Kong AFP in English
0848 GMT 29 Apr 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 29 (AFP)—Nepal's far-left communist coalition has vowed to continue its campaign for radical political reform despite recent democratic changes in the Himalayan kingdom, which it says were not enough.

The United National People's Movement (UNPM), which joins six communist factions, is viewed as the most extreme opponent of Nepal's monarchical system.

But the group does not stop there. The UNPM is highly critical of what it sees as Indian expansionism, Soviet hegemonism, U.S. imperialism and Chinese modern revisionism.

"We are the followers of late Mao Zedong's cultural revolution, and we want our own politics to safeguard peoples' political rights and freedom," Mohan Bickman Singh, head of the UNPM, said in an interview here Saturday [28 April].

King Birendra lifted a 30-year ban on political parties and named an interim coalition government earlier this month following eight weeks of pro-democracy protests.

Mr. M.B. Singh, also head of the far-left communist group Male ("Flaming Torch Bearer"), said the king's concessions were insufficient. His group has issued a 10-point list of demands, including a new constitution to safeguard human rights and multiparty democracy.

Meanwhile, the Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front (ULF), the two leading parties in Nepal, have called for vigilance against reactionaries and counter-revolutionaries in the country.

The UNPM leader criticised negotiations early this month between the king and the Nepali Congress and the ULF, an alliance of seven communist factions, for excluding the UNPM.

The king dissolved parliament April 16. The government on Thursday disbanded the country's network of local councils, or panchayats, thus completing the dissolution of Nepal's partyless system, in force since 1960.

Under threat of strong UNPM opposition, the Nepali Congress Central Committee ended a three-day meeting—chaired by party leader and Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai—by adopting a number of political, economic and foreign policy resolutions.

Announcing the resolutions, Central Committee spokesman C.K. Prasai urged the new government to hold general elections by May 1991 and to create a constitution draft committee with members of all political views.

One important resolution called for the formation of top-rung commission to investigate assets of panchayat leaders and others who allegedly amassed great wealth under the system.

Other recommendations included curbing the price of consumer and agricultural goods, cutting interest rates on loans from the country's agriculture development bank, returning property confiscated from anti-panchayat politicians and dropping all legal charges against them.

In foreign policy, the Central Committee reiterated its commitment both to non-alignment to protect its own sovereignty and to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The Central Committee also resolved to maintain close relations with neighbouring countries, especially India, with which it shares many social, cultural and ethnic ties.

The Central Committee also called on the coalition government to ask New Delhi to reinstate trade and transit arrangements of pre-March 1989, when India unilaterally ended such treaties with Nepal and closed 17 of 19 transit points.

The 13-month trade stalemate caused power cuts, petrol rations and commodity shortages in the landlocked country.

Adoption of the resolutions marks a major political development, as it will help the Bhattarai government chart a coherent policy ahead of general elections.

But the resolution also urged vigilance against reactionaries and counter-revolutionaries bent on reversing the democratic trend through "fraud, deceit, conspiracy and vandalism."

Meanwhile the seven-party ULF, led by chairwoman Sahana Pradhan, adopted 14 resolutions urging vigilance against counter-revolutionaries and calling on the government to consolidate ties with democratizing Eastern European nations.

The ULF resolutions also encouraged better cooperation between the Nepali Congress and the ULF to defeat "counter-revolutionary" forces.

Editorial Lists Problems Facing New Government

BK2804132990 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 20 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "All Success"]

[Text] His majesty the King, after effecting some changes in the Constitution of the nation in consonance with the popular demand and will of the people, swore in the acting President of the Nepali Congress, Mr Krishna Prasad Bhattarai as the new Prime Minister [PM] of Nepal at a special function held at the Narayanhity Royal Palace Thursday [19 April]. The new Prime Minister also swore in the other nine members of his new cabinet at Singha Durbar whose names he had submitted to His Majesty earlier. The new PM will be heading a coalition government comprising of three members from the Nepali Congress, three members from the United Left Front, four others including two independents. Prime Minister Bhattarai will be holding the portfolios of Royal Palace Affairs, Defence and Foreign Affairs. The cabinet includes a sole woman, Mrs Sahana Pradhan, the Chairperson of the United Left Front, who will be looking after the portfolios of Commerce and Industry. The new PM has not ruled out the inclusion of additional ministers in the future.

While we can expect the expansion of the government in the future, which is the usual norm in any newly formed government, it would be only fair to warn that it will not be a smooth sailing for the interim government when viewed in the backdrop of the nation's economic situation. That there is an urgent need to put the economy on an even keel has not been lost to the new PM when even before his formal appointment, he had pointed out that the nation-building task before us is not only arduous due to the bad shape of the economic situation but the traumatic effect in the aftermath of the Nepal-India impasses have yet to be overcome. Another equally arduous challenge before this new government is the speedy and amicable resolution of the current impasse in the Nepal-India talks. Judging by the new PM's past utterances it is heartening to note that the new government would be sparing no efforts in an early resolution in this respect. However, while an early resolution would be much welcomed by the nation and the people, care should be taken by the new interim government that the country's sovereignty and national interests are in no way compromised.

Now that a new interim government has taken over, it is to be hoped that the rhetorics and playing to the gallery which were voiced in abundance in the past are gradually toned down. Similarly, the new government's promises to initiate appropriate measures to bring economic and political relief to the people at large must be welcomed. However, promises are only one side of the coin. The bringing into fruition the promises is another, and more important and difficult side. The interim government should realise in its historic march to fulfil its avowed aims, such as holding of the elections on a multi-party basis and the bringing of economic relief to all the Nepalese people, is that, now that it has the necessary means to effect changes, they will be judged solely on their ability to deliver the goods that they had promised to the people and not by mere rhetorics. In this difficult task, we wish the interim government all success in its historic march to better the status of the Nepalese people.

Pakistan

India Rejects Proposal for Checking Allegations

BK2804160490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] India has rejected Pakistan's proposal for establishing an impartial system under the United Nations or a group of neutral countries to examine Indian allegations against Islamabad's interference in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told a crowded news conference in New York that he had forwarded this proposal during his recent discussions with his Indian counterpart, Inder Kumar Gujral, who had repeated his government's baseless allegations that Pakistan supports current activities in occupied Kashmir and Indian Punjab. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said he rejected these false and baseless allegations.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said he had suggested to his Indian counterpart that the two countries needed to adopt an attitude toward resolving the problem and to try to end making and rejecting accusations and counteraccusations. He said the two countries should evolve a realistic, verifiable and impartial plan of action for deciding which country is wrong.

When the foreign minister was asked about UN mediation in connection with Kashmir, he said Pakistan will support such an idea, but that it would be necessary to obtain the consent of both countries. Pakistan on its part will support every initiative to resolve the problem.

Spokesman Regrets India's 'Bellicose Statements'

BK2904102490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Pakistan has expressed deep regret over the provocative and virulent statement made by an Indian External Affairs Ministry's spokesman in New Delhi yesterday evening. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad this morning that India's statement is a bundle of false accusations and untenable assertions. The spokesman particularly regretted the fact that India has been making bellicose statements even though its external affairs minister, during his discussions with his Pakistani counterpart in New York only four days ago, had agreed to exercise restraint.

The spokesman strongly rejected the allegations about Pakistan's interference and said no trick can conceal the fact that the ongoing struggle in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir is totally indigenous, the root cause of which

lies in India's continued denial of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people.

While endorsing the validity of the UN resolutions on the Kashmir problem, the spokesman referred to the UN secretary general's declaration that as long as a problem is not resolved, the UN resolutions will remain effective. He recalled that the Security Council had itself reaffirmed in 1951 that the activity of the so-called Legislative Assembly of Indian-held Kashmir is not tantamount to the abolition of the status of Jammu and Kashmir as a state in accordance with the UN resolutions. The spokesman added that the biggest proof of the rejection of the Indian contention was provided by the people of Kashmir themselves when less than five percent of the people turned out to vote in recent elections. The spokesman further regretted that instead of fulfilling the promises made to the people of Kashmir, India has been indulging in the brutal repression of the Kashmiri people. The violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir is so massive that it has even enraged conscientious men and organizations in India.

The spokesman asserted that if India thinks that its accusations are true, then why has it rejected proposals for establishing a neutral mechanism to investigate these allegations? Why is India hesitating in accepting the proposals for having these allegations verified? He added that the struggle in Kashmir must not in any way be regarded as a movement of the religious fundamentalists, because it is purely a nationalist movement.

The spokesman expressed the hope that instead of creating war hysteria and displaying its military strength, India will honor the international community's desire for a solution of the Jammu and Kashmir problem in accordance with the UN resolutions.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, it does not want a war and it will continue to make every possible effort for a peaceful settlement of the dispute, the spokesman added.

State Defense Minister Talks on Peace, Stability

Says Taking Steps To End War Threat

BK2904103090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, the minister of state for defense, has said that Pakistan is determined to maintain peace and stability in the region. Talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi this afternoon, he said: We are following the policy of noninterference in the affairs of other states.

The minister of state said Pakistan is taking every possible step to ease tension and eliminate the threat of war. The tense situation between India and Pakistan is gradually returning to normal, he added.

Says Miiitary Hotline Open

BK2904112290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Pakistan is committed to maintaining peace and stability in the region and is pursuing the policy of noninvolvement and noninterference in the internal affairs of neighboring countries. This was stated by the minister of state for defense, retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, while talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi this afternoon. He said Pakistan does not want war and no sane element, either in Pakistan or India, will be in favor of war. For its part, Pakistan is taking all steps to reduce tension and avoid war psychosis. However, it is also prepared to face any eventuality.

Replying to a question, the minister of state for defense said that a hotline between the senior military commanders of Pakistan and India is open.

Army Troops, Rangers Alerted Along Sind Border

BK2904121090 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 20 Apr 90 pp 1, 8

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Karachi, 19 April—Pakistani Army troops and rangers have been alerted in view of the presence of Indian strike corps along the Pakistani border. Informed sources said that the military movement on the other side of the border is being closely monitored and necessary steps have been taken to check all kinds of illegal movements and smuggling activities along the Sindh border.

Reports said that even after the completion of their scheduled military exercises, the Indian troops are still stationed at a distance of 60 miles from the Sindh border, which is a cause of concern for Pakistan, and which has been described as an Indian effort to put pressure on Pakistan. These sources said that India wants to distract people's attention from the actual situation of the freedom movement in Kashmir and that is why it is maintaining its military presence along the borders. The sources, however, said that Pakistan's armed forces are fully prepared and alert to meet any threat.

President Writing Political 'Code of Ethics'

BK2704161790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that he is working on a code of ethics for political parties and politicians to create a greater sense of reconciliation between various political groups and personalities. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad at the Presidency in Islamabad today, he said he will meet all politicians separately to fine tune the code of ethics so that a sense of unity and understanding prevails in the national politics.

The president said it will be a matter of great satisfaction for the nation if the politicians give up confrontation. He added

that he feels that at no time has there been such need for national reconciliation and unity as now, at this critical juncture of nationa history. He said if Islamic teachings are practiced, the nation will be united and strong.

Report Issued on Additional Funds for Defense

BK3004104490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 30 (AFP)—The Pakistani Government has diverted an additional four billion rupees (186 million dollars) to beef up its defences amid growing tension with India over the Kashmir issue, press reports said here Monday [30 April]. The official PAKISTAN TIMES, quoting "high-level sources" at the Defence Ministry, said that half of the funds had come from revenue generated by a sharp increase of 10 to 15 percent in prices of petrol and fertilisers announced late March by the federal government.

The defence allocation for fiscal 1989-90 ending June 30 was 36.9 percent of the total 9,732 million dollars total budget, amounting to some 3,591 million dollars.

Sources quoted by the PAKISTAN TIMES said the government is contemplating additional taxes in the next budget to be presented in June to provide extra finance for the armed forces.

Another English-language daily, DAWN, said however that the increase in the defence budget would "not be much and the government would be able to meet it without having to take drastic revenue generating measures."

Tension escalated earlier this month between India and Pakistan, as New Delhi accused Islamabad of abetting the current insurrection in Indian-held Kashmir, a charge Pakistan has denied.

Pakistan's Minister of State for Defence Ghulam Sarwar Cheema was quoted by newspapers as saying that the defence needs of the country, in view of repeated Indian war threats, have been met through a "crash programme".

He also said that the increase in the next budget would be "reasonable," and that tension between Pakistan and India was gradually moving towards normalcy.